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REVIEWS

Address to the Baronets' Committee, on the Subject of the Chartered Rights and Privileges of the Order. By William Crawford, Esq. Barrister-at-Law, Standing Counsel to the Order. 8vo. 1837.

Dignity, Precedence, &c. of the Honourable the Baronetesses of the Realm. 12mo. 1839.

THE public has heard much, and, we believe, are likely to hear more, of the claims of the BARONETS to certain "rights, privileges, and distinctions;" and, as the subject excites much interest among a class, and will have some novelty for all, and as the tracts above mentioned have been published, we are perhaps justified in considering it a matter fairly within our critical cognizance.

THE ORDER OF BARONETS was created by King James the First, in May, 1611, ostensibly for the defence of Ireland, and especially for the security of the province of Ulster, but really as a means for recruiting the Royal Treasury. The execution of this notable project was originally intrusted to Commissioners, who were authorized to treat with a certain number of such Knights and Esquires as might present themselves with offers of assistance for the service of Ireland.

They were to signify to such of them as desired to be admitted into the Dignity of BARONETS, that they must maintain thirty foot-soldiers in Ireland for three years at eight-pence a day, and pay the wages for one year upon passing their patents, and give bonds for the payment of the remainder. None but men "of quality, state of living, and good reputation," descended from a paternal grandfather who bore arms, and worth 1,000*l.* per annum, were to be chosen. Anticipating that the real motive of these creations might be suspected, King James directed that each of the new Baronets should swear that he had "not given any more for attaining the Degree, or any precedence in it, than that which is necessary for the maintenance of the number of soldiers, or such sort as aforesaid, saving the charges of passing his patent." After a long preamble, the original Letters Patent create the Dignity of Baronet (*statum, gradum, dignitatem, nomen et titulum Baronetti*, Anglic of a Baronet), and confers it upon the grantee and the heirs male of his body for ever, with place and precedence before all Knights, as well Knights of the Bath as Knights Bachelors, and before all Knights Bannerets, except such as might be made under the royal standard in the King's wars in open war, and when the King himself was present: and a corresponding precedence is given to their wives and children. The King covenants that the number of Baronets of England shall never, at any one time, exceed two hundred, and that each of them shall respectively "enjoy the place and precedence among others, according to the priority of his creation." King James then promises for himself, and his heirs and successors, never to create in England any grade, order, name, title, dignity, or state above or equal to that of Baronet, and not to fill up any vacancy in the said number of two hundred that might occur by failure of heirs male of the bodies of any of the grantees.

Very soon after the institution of the Order, a dispute arose between the Baronets and the younger sons of Viscounts and Barons about precedence, and the matter being referred to the King in Council, James heard it argued before him for three several days, and, on the 28th of May, 1612, he issued a decree, settling the point in dispute. He adjudged that the younger sons of Viscounts and Barons should take place and

precedence before all Baronets; that Bannerets made by the King under the royal standard displayed in an army royal in open war, should, "for the term of their lives only, and no longer," precede all other Bannerets, younger sons of Viscounts and Barons, and Baronets, and that the said younger sons and Baronets should precede all Bannerets not created in that manner, except those that might be made by Prince Henry:—

"That the Knights of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, the Privie Councillours of his Majesty, his heirs and successors, the Master of the Court of Wardes and Liveries, the Chancellour and under-Treasurer of the Exchequer, Chancellour of the Duchie, the Chief Justice of the Court commonly called the King's Bench, the Master of the Rolls, the Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, the Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and all other the Judges and Barons of the degree of the Coiffe of the said Courts, now, and for the time being, shall by reason of such their Honourable orders and employment of State and Justice, have place and precedence in all places, and upon all occasions before the younger sonnes of Viscounts and Barons, and before all Baronets, any custome, use, ordinance, or other thing to the contrary notwithstanding. But that no other person or persons whatsoever, under the degree of Barons of Parliament, shall take place before the said Baronets, except only the younger sonnes of Viscounts and Barons, and others of higher degree, whereof no question ever was, or can be made."

The precedence assigned to the wives and children of Baronets, and the promise not to create any rank above or equal to that of Baronet, is repeated. King James then proceeded to grant additional honours and privileges to the Baronets:

"First, his Majesty is pleased to Knight the present Baronets, that are no Knights; and doeth also by these presents of his mere motion and favour, promise and graunt for him, his heirs and successors, that such Baronets, and the heirs males of their bodies, as hereafter shalbe no Knights, when they shall attaine, or be of the age of one and twentie yeares; upon knowledge thereof given to the Lord Chamberlaine of the household, or Vice-Chamberlaine for the time being, or in their absence to any other officer attending upon his Majesties person, shalbe knighted by his Majesty, his heirs and successors. His Majesty doth also graunt for him, his heirs and successors, that the Baronets, and their descendants shall and may beare, either in a Canton in their coate of Armes, or, in an Inscutcheon, at their election, the Armes of Ulster, that is, in a field Argent, a hand Geules, ora bloody hand. And also, that the Baronets, for the time being, and the heirs males of their bodies shall have place in the Armies of the Kings Majesty, his heirs and successors, in the grosse, neere about the royall Standard of the King, his heirs and successors, for the defence of the same. And lastly, that the Baronets, and the heirs males of their bodies shall have two assistants of the bodie to support the pall, a principall mourner, and foure assistants to him at their funerals, being the meane betwixt a Baron and a Knight."

Four years afterwards, namely, in 1616, another and final decree was made, which provided, "that the said Title, Stile, Dignitie, and Degree of Baronet, shal be, and shall be reputed and taken to be a Title, Stile, Dignity, and Degree of Dignity Hereditary, meane in place betwixt the Degree of a Baron and the Degree of a Knight."

Provision is made for the precedence of the wives, widows, sons, and daughters of Baronets, and then follows this clause, upon which the present claims are principally founded:—

"And our will and pleasure is, and we doe for us, our heirs and successors, hereby further grant and appoint, that if any doubts or questions not hereby, nor by any our recited Letters Patents cleared and determined, doe or shall arise, concerning any place, precedence, privilege, or other matter touching or concerning the same Baronets, and the heirs Males of their bodies, and their wives, their eldest sonnes

and their wives, their daughters, their younger sonnes, and their younger sonnes' wives, or any of them; such doubts or questions shall be decided and determined, by and according to such usuall rules, custome, and lawes, for place, precedence, privilege or other matters concerning them as other Degrees of Dignity Hereditary are ordered and adjudged."

The clause in the patent of 1611, about Knighting the heirs male of Baronets being ambiguous, it was fully explained in the final decree.

So far from there being anything unsettled, or ambiguous, respecting the rights, honours, and privileges, of the Baronets, it is scarcely possible to imagine how they could be more accurately or minutely described. The Committee of Baronets claim, however, besides Knighthood for all Baronets, and for their eldest sons on attaining the age of twenty-one,—the style of "*Honourable*" and "*Supporters to their arms*, a Badge, a Dark Green Dress, as the appropriate costume pertaining to them as *Equites Aurati*; the Collar of S. S.—the Belt—the Scarf—a Star—a Pennon—a White Hat and Plume of White Feathers—the Thumb Ring and Signet—the Sword—Gilt Spurs, &c." (p. 60.)

These claims appear to be founded partly upon the clause in the Patent of 1616, that "if any doubts or questions not hereby, nor by any our recited Letters Patent, cleared and determined, do or shall arise, such doubts or questions shall be decided and determined by and according to such usuall rules, customs and laws, for place, precedence, privilege, or other matters concerning them, as other degrees of dignity hereditary, are ordered and adjudged;" partly upon a presumed analogy to other dignities; and partly upon supposed usage.

The operative words in the Patent of a Baronet are, Mr. Crawford says, "almost a counterpart of the Patent of a Baron, viz., "*Præficus, constituimus et creamus eidemque A. B. statum, gradum, dignitatem, stylum, nomen, et honorem BARONIS B. de C.*" in the one case, and "in *dignitatem, statum et gradum BARONETTI*"—"nomen, statum, gradum, stylum, dignitatem, titulum, locum et præcedentiam predictam, &c." in the other; and, he adds that—

"It is no violent presumption to conclude, that the words state, grade, dignity, title, and name, which conferred upon a Baron certain well-known privileges, were not lightly or thoughtlessly used in the Patents of Baronets by the Founder of that Order. The use of such words in both instruments, drives the opponents of the Baronet's claims into a dilemma, for either those words mean nothing at all, thus stultifying the Royal Founder's express intentions and solemn deliberate act, or they must have attributed to them that meaning alone, which they were known to bear when theretofore used in conferring 'other hereditary degrees of dignity.' In no other light can I regard them, for it would be most fallacious to argue that the same identical words can, in conferring hereditary privileges, have different interpretations. We then naturally inquire, what is the operation and what the effect of the words so used with reference to the dignity of Baron? In other words, what 'state, degree, dignity, style, title, name, honour, place, and privilege,' are conferred upon, and enjoyed by a Baron, by force and virtue of a Patent so nearly identical in its terms with that of a Baronet?"

Mr. Crawford therefore infers that the distinctions incidental to the dignity of a Baron are also incidental to that of a Baronet, viz., "honorary epithets, secondary titles, personal decorations, and augmented heraldic bearings." In the whole range of controversial writings it would, perhaps, be impossible to discover a theory more destitute of foundation, or a more perfect instance of a *non sequitur* than this. By the one grant the party obtains the "state, grade, dignity, style, title, name, and honour of a

BARON," with all its rights and privileges; and as those rights and privileges are not expressly defined, they are ascertained and fixed by ancient usage, and long-established custom. In the other case, the party obtains the "state, grade, dignity, style, title, and name of a BARONET," many of the rights and privileges incidental to which, are not only described in the instrument itself, but part of them are expressly referred to, and all the additional ones are clearly defined and settled by the subsequent patents of 1612 and 1616. How then can it be contended that a patent which grants any particular dignity, with all the rights and privileges appertaining to such dignity, can confer any part of the rights and privileges belonging to another and totally distinct dignity? Besides the privileges mentioned by Mr. Crawford, and the right of sitting in Parliament, Barons enjoy various other privileges and immunities—freedom from arrest, and from attending court-leets, or the *posse comitatus*, in cases of riot, for example—and does he mean to say that these were included in the Patent to Baronets as part of their state, grade, or dignity? But if his arguments be correct, and any privilege belonging to Barons were given to Baronets by those words, *all* must be given,—a *reductio ad absurdum*, that shows the mistake into which he has fallen.

We now proceed to notice the other claims *seriatim*:—First, KNIGHTHOOD.—Many of the newly-created Baronets being Knights, and, perhaps, with the view of consolidating or uniting, as it were, the new dignity with an ancient institution, King James engaged to Knight all Baronets, and their eldest sons on becoming of age; consequently, there can be no dispute as to the right of those Baronets and their eldest sons, to Knighthood, in all cases in which a clause to that effect occurs in their patents of creation. We believe there are few, if any, patents of English Baronets, in which it is omitted, before the 19th of December, 1827, when Letters Patent were issued, revoking the covenant in the patents of King James, and it has been omitted in all subsequent creations of Baronets.

When a Baronet is Knighted, he of course becomes entitled to all the privileges and distinctions of a Knight Bachelor, as well as of a Baronet: and the claim to vestments and decorations is principally founded upon such ornaments having once been worn by Knights. Mr. Crawford observes, (and, as it is almost the only indication of common sense we have discovered throughout the Baronets' proceedings, it is particularly deserving of attention,) "But supposing the right to such dress and decorations to be undoubted, it will be for the body at large to consider how far their adoption would suit the spirit of the age, and whether the splendid trappings of the days of Chivalry are adapted to those matter-of-fact times in which we live. On such points as these, I can offer no remark. My duty is to point out, to the best of my ability, what the Baronets may claim if they shall be so disposed."

Certainly, it would rather astonish her Majesty's lieges to see 900 gentlemen walking about London with gold collars of S. S. scarfs, belts, (or military girdles,) swords, gilded spurs, gold chains, and with large gold rings on their thumbs, and white hats and plumes on their heads!

Though the right of such Baronets as enjoy their titles under patents containing the covenant to confer knighthood upon them and upon their sons and heirs apparent, is not likely to be disputed, the Crown, when called upon to confer that dignity has not merely the power, but it is bound to ascertain that the claimants are *de jure* entitled to its favour. In other words, their pedigree ought first to be proved by legal evi-

dence before a Court created for that purpose. The necessity for such a measure has long been felt, because many persons have assumed the title, either without any proofs of their descent whatever, or, what is nearly the same thing, upon the faith of that most contemptible of all legal evidence, a modern Scotch Retour! Clamorous as the Baronets have shown themselves for imaginary rights and supposed privileges formerly resisted, they now take but slight notice of the most serious defect in their constitution, the one most calculated to impair their dignity, and to bring their Order into disrepute, namely, the want of a competent tribunal before which the right of every Baronet should be established. We may be told that such is to be one of the duties of the Chapters they are desirous of holding; but on such a Court, (judging from the proceedings that have already emanated from the body,) and of the elements of which it would probably be composed, we fear no reliance could be placed; and if anything of the kind were done, it must be formed by and depend entirely upon the government. Some of, if not all, the Judges of such a Court might, however, be Baronets, because it would be easy to find competent lawyers among the body, or they might be created for the purpose.

The claim to SUPPORTERS is thus stated:—

"It is necessary under this head to show that Baronets are of the Order of Nobles Majores. Now the Nobles Majores are distinguished from the Nobles Minores by hereditary descent of title. I have shown by the Charters that Baronets enjoy an hereditary dignity, therefore if Supporters be distinctive of, and appropriate to those grades of hereditary rank theretofore existing in the State, namely, the Peers; and that Baronets are to be adjudged 'in all things relating to privilege and other matters by the same rules, laws, and customs, by which other degrees of dignity hereditary are ordered and adjudged,' then it follows that Supporters legitimately appertain to the Order of Baronets. This was the conclusion of Lord Lyon King of Arms, when he assigned Supporters to the Nova Scotia Baronets, a junior branch of the Order."

In this assumption about *Nobles Majores*, Playfair (perhaps the most worthless of all authorities) is cited; and we are then told that—

"Anstis, in his treatise called *Aspilogia*, says, 'The practice of the Sovereigns of England granting Supporters to the Peers of each degree seems to have occurred in the reign of King Henry VIII., as did that of granting the like ornaments to the Arms of the Knights of the Garter, and of the Bath.' The right of these three privileged classes to bear Supporters was established prior to the accession of James I. to the British Monarchy; they were enjoyed by them respectively at the period when he founded the Order of Baronet or Minor Baron, and they continue in use to the present day. When therefore the Baronetage was erected, it is, I think a fair presumption, that it was unnecessary to specify in the Royal Decree, that the Members of it should bear Supporters, that privilege having been incidentally conferred by the Charters granting to the Baronets that they should be adjudged in all things relating to title, dignity, privilege and other matters, as other degrees of Hereditary Dignity then and theretofore were ordered and adjudged: Its fairness may be drawn from the precedence of the Baronets above the Knights of the Bath; those Knights having Supporters, it is not unreasonable to argue that the superior Order should have them likewise."

It may be as well to inform Mr. Crawford that the treatise called *Aspilogia* is supposed to have been written by the learned Spelman, and was printed at the end of Upton, "De Studio Militari," in 1654, fifteen years before Anstis was born.

In the time of James I. Supporters were confined to Peers and Knights of the Garter; and they were not borne by Knights of the Bath until the creation of that Order as a regular military Order of Knighthood by George I., in

1725, for which purpose a special statute was issued. The propriety of assigning some armorial distinction to the Baronets did not escape their royal founder; and, by the Decree of 1612, which settled so many other points connected with their position and privileges, the King granted that "the Baronets and their descendants shall and may bear, either in a canton in their coat of arms, or in an inescutcheon, at their election, the arms of Ulster—that is, in a field argent a hand gules, or a bloody hand." Not a word occurs about Supporters; and as the use of those heraldic ornaments was then as well known, and governed by as strict rules as at present, no one can believe that if it had been intended that Baronets should bear them, words to that effect would not have been introduced into the Decree. The "fair presumption" that it was unnecessary to specify them, because it was a privilege "that the members of it should bear Supporters, that privilege having been incidentally conferred by the Charters granting to the Baronets that they should be adjudged in all things relating to title, dignity, privilege and other matters, as other degrees of Hereditary Dignity then and theretofore were ordered and adjudged," is scarcely deserving of notice; for it is obvious, from the context, that this analogy is only to apply in cases of "doubts or questions, not cleared and determined" by that Decree, or the former patents "concerning place, precedence, privilege, or other matters touching the Baronets, their heirs male apparent, their wives, their eldest sons and their wives, their daughters, their younger sons and their wives, or any of them." In that clause, "privilege, or other matters," are the only words that can, by any possible construction, include "Supporters;" but the whole sentence shows that no other matters than those connected with *place and precedence* were contemplated, because the children and the wives of the sons of Baronets are placed in the same category as the Baronets themselves. Moreover (we must repeat), it is only when "doubts or questions not hereby, nor by any our recited letters patent cleared and determined" arise, that a reference to the usage respecting "other hereditary dignities is to be made. But what doubt has ever arisen, or can properly or fairly arise, respecting the armorial bearings of Baronets, when that very Decree itself clearly and specifically points out what their armorial distinctions shall be? On the next assertion, that the "fairness of the claim" may be drawn from the precedence of the Baronets above the Knights of the Bath; those Knights having Supporters, it is not unreasonable to argue that the superior Order should have them likewise: it is sufficient to remark, that, at the institution of Baronets, Knights of the Bath did not bear Supporters; that when they were assigned to them in 1725, the constitution of the Order had been entirely altered; that the Knights then consisted of only thirty-seven persons, and even now scarcely exceed one hundred, many of whom are Peers; that the Order of the Bath is one of the few rewards the Crown has to bestow for distinguished service to the State, whereas the first Baronets actually bought their dignity. There are now *nine hundred* Baronets, and they are constantly increasing; so that, to extend the distinction, as an *hereditary* right, to so large a body, would inevitably destroy its value. Great stress is laid on the fact that Supporters are borne by the Baronets of Nova Scotia—or, more properly speaking, by the Baronets of Scotland. In that Kingdom, however, Supporters were never confined to the peerage, but have been, and still are, used by the Chiefs of Clans; and Lord Lyon is empowered to grant them at his discretion, whereas no such power is vested either in Garter, or in Ulster King of Arms of Ireland, nor even in the Earl

Marshal, except in the cases of Peers, Knights of the Garter, and Knights Grand Cross of the Royal Orders of Knighthood. Whether the Lord Lyon, who granted Supporters to the Baronets of Nova Scotia, was justified in doing so, has but slight bearing on the present occasion. The words of the patents of Nova Scotia Baronets, their number, and the usage in Scotland, are altogether different from those of England; so that his decision, supposing it (which is by no means conceded) to have been a proper one, cannot be deemed a precedent for admitting the pretensions of the Baronets of England and Ireland to the same distinction.

The next claim is so preposterous a one, that Mr. Crawford must himself describe it. After stating that the present Coronets were not assigned to the Barons of England until 1661, and to those of Ireland and Scotland in 1665, he says:

"It will be obvious, therefore, that the Order of Baronets could not claim a Coronet as incidental to the dignity at the period of its erection; but as a Coronet has since been granted to Barons, to prevent the anomaly of Baronets being the only degree of hereditary dignity in this realm, without a Coronet; and the Knight's helmet which they now bear being manifestly inappropriate, as belonging to their inferior personal degree, good grounds are open to the Baronets whereupon to prefer a petition praying Her Majesty to accord to them some distinctive head decoration."

If the perusal of this passage should disturb the gravity of our readers, and if a certain triangular-shaped ornament, adorned with a number of little tintinnabulary appurtenances, should present itself to their imagination, we would remind them that such an article would be inappropriate to the present purpose, because a "head decoration" of that kind was not the mark of an "hereditary dignity," but of personal and very amusing qualities. Coronets are not worn by Barons, nor by any other noblemen, on account of their "hereditary dignity," but as part of their parliamentary costume as *Peers*; and though King Charles II. first assigned Coronets to Barons, those personages had long worn a Cap of Estate in Parliament, to which that monarch merely added eight pearls or balls. But no such Cap, or other "head decoration" was given to Baronets by James I.; and the cause to which Mr. Crawford wishes the omission to be attributed is manifestly erroneous.

The style of "THE HONOURABLE."—Because the honorary epithets of "Most Noble," "Most Honourable," "Right Honourable," and "Honourable," attributed to Dukes, Marquesses, Earls, Barons, and their children, "originated entirely in the courtesy of society, and were not bestowed by the Crown, and are not perpetuated by charter," Mr. Crawford says, "use and wont form the only grounds by which any of the several grades of the Peerage can claim those honorary appellations;" and he adds,—"and to show by precedent that the Baronetage is entitled to enjoy, and has enjoyed a similar right, is all, as I confidently submit, that is necessary to authorize its resumption."

Numerous instances are then given of the word "Honourable" having been prefixed to the names of Baronets in the early part and middle of the seventeenth century. But while we admit the fact, it proves nothing in favour of the Baronets which it does not establish in favour of Esquires, private Gentlemen of large landed property, Generals, Colonels, Admirals, and Justices of the Peace, to all of whom the appellation of "Honourable" was then as frequently applied as to Baronets. Functionaries in the colonies are to this day called "The Honourable;" and in England we have "His Honour" the Vice Chancellor, and "His Honour" the Master of the Rolls. Custom may be the only real foundation of the right of Peers to the titles of "Most

Noble," and "Most" or "Right Honourable," as well as of their children to that of "Honourable;" but the custom has in their case been adopted by the Crown, so as to possess as much authority, and those appellations are certainly as fully justified, as any title or appellation can be that is not expressly conferred by Letters Patent, or by an Act of Parliament. But did the Crown ever recognize the pretensions of the Baronets to the designation of "Honourable"? Have they ever even ascribed it to themselves?—or has it been attributed to them by the courtesy and usage of society, since it ceased to be a mere act of politeness to apply it to every gentleman distinguished by his reputation, by the extent of his property, or by the office he happened to hold? The sixteen pages of the address, containing proofs of a fact which no one ever denied, are therefore utterly wasted: but a still higher style seems to be claimed for Baronets. Mr. Crawford says—

"From official documents it appears, that in the reign of James I. and Charles I., Lords of Parliament in Scotland were styled by the Crown 'Our Right Trustie and wel-beloved Cousin and Counsellour,' and that Baronets were styled 'Our trustie and well-beloved Cousin and Counsellour,'—thus preserving the relation, in the descending scale, between Right Honourable and Honourable. This style occurs in a Royal Warrant of King Charles I., dated Whitehall, April 1631, addressed to the Justices of Ireland, in which mention is made of 'Our trustie and wel-beloved Cousin and Counsellour, Sir Walter Crosbie, Knight and Baronet.'"

The address to Sir Walter Crosbie explains itself. He was not so styled because he was a *Baronet*, but because he was a *Privy Councillor*. What then could be the object of alluding to Sir Walter Crosbie's title, unless it were wished to raise an inference wholly without foundation? But no species of proof seems too ridiculous to be brought forward:—in 1617, the Letters Patent creating the dignity, as well as the two subsequent patents, were printed by the King's printer, entitled 'Three Patents concerning the Honourable degree and dignity of Baronets,' upon which Mr. Crawford seriously remarks:—

"Now in thus establishing that the Baronets upon the erection of the Order, and long afterwards, were styled 'the Honourable' by so many various grades of society, I must remind the Committee that, it rests solely with themselves, whether they will revive a style, which has fallen into disuse. If they believe the evidence adduced to be conclusive, that Baronets formerly enjoyed the style, they will, in my opinion, be fully warranted in resuming it. The usage of society originated it, and it may be perpetuated by the same means."

Let the reader mark well this beautiful specimen of evidence. The degree and dignity of Baronet is "an honourable degree;" *ergo*, every one entitled to that dignity may style himself "the Honourable." Mr. Crawford forgets that the Order of the Garter is styled the "Most Noble Order," and there the Bath is styled, not in a printer's title-page, but in letters patent under the great seal, "the Most Honourable Order;" but neither the Knights of the Garter nor of the Bath ever pretended to call themselves "the Most Noble," "the Most Honourable," nor even "the Honourable." The Society of the Middle Temple or Lincoln's Inn is "an Honourable Society," and, according to this reasoning, all its members may call themselves "the Honourable." Why then did not Mr. Crawford, who must be a member of one of the "Honourable" Societies of the Inns of Court, style himself in his title-page, "the Honourable William Crawford, M.A., Barrister-at-Law, Standing Counsel to the Order?"

A few more words of comment suggest themselves, which, however, we shall defer for the present.

Narrative of a Whaling Voyage round the Globe, from the Year 1833 to 1836, comprising Sketches of Polynesia, California, &c. By F. D. Bennett, Esq., F.R.C.S. 2 vols. London, Bentley.

Mr. Bennett is a well informed, sensible, and observant traveller, but his subject is not particularly interesting. There is a wearisome similarity in most accounts of semi-savage nations. A long residence among such a people may indeed enable an intelligent person to open up to view some principles of human action which are concealed under the forms and usages of civilized life, but a mere casual visitor must rest content with superficial observation; and thus it is that the accounts of Maitia, Tahiti, Raiatia, and the other islands visited by Mr. Bennett, differ only in words, leaving no permanent impression of individuality or difference on the mind. It is but just, however, to Mr. Bennett to state, that his work will be acceptable to the naturalist if not to the public: he is quite an enthusiast, indeed, in all matters relating to whales, whether sperm whales, shoal whales, cachelots, bulls, cows, or calves: to the collection of facts and specimens relating to natural history he devoted much attention, and not without success: "the collection of objects brought to this country by the *Tuscan*, consisted of 743 dried specimens of plants, illustrating the vegetation of the lands visited, and 233 preparations of animals, most of which are rare, and many of them unique.

Mr. Bennett, however, has one merit which all persons will admit, he goes direct to his subject. Within the first fifty pages the reader has traversed the Atlantic, doubled Cape Horn, and is hail-fellow with his old friends at Pitcairn Island. We shall follow this excellent example, and without more comment introduce our readers to this interesting people; and though not much that is new remains to be told, a British public will always rejoice to hear of them and of their prosperity:—

"On the succeeding morning we made sail to within five miles of the northern coast, (where some houses on the heights denoted the situation of the settlement,) and lowered a boat, in which Mr. Stolorthy and myself accompanied Captain Stavers to the shore. Guided by the gestures of a native, who stood upon an eminence waving a cloth, we proceeded for an indentation of the coast, where several of the islanders were collected on the rocks; but here so heavy a surf broke upon every visible part of the shore that some reluctance was felt to expose the boat to its fury. While we were considering the best mode of effecting a landing, one of the islanders plunged into the sea and swam towards us. He approached with the salutation, 'Good morning, brethren,' and, entering the boat, commenced a familiar conversation in very good English. Upon his volunteering to pilot us to the landing-place, and, in his own words, 'to be responsible for the safety of the boat,' the crew again took to their oars; when passing through a line of heavy rollers, and doubling a projecting ledge of rock, we almost immediately entered comparatively tranquil water, and ran the boat's bow upon the small beach of 'Bounty Bay,' where some pigs of iron ballast, and shreds of corroded copper, yet remain as mementos of the fate of the vessel which has given her name to the spot. The principal male inhabitants received us on the beach with a cordial and English welcome to their shores, and conducted us by a steep and winding path to the settlement. Several of the heads of families we had not before seen, and groups of women and children, met us on our way, their countenances beaming with pleasure at the appearance of their visitors, and all of them desirous to shake hands with their 'countrymen,' as they term the British."

"The northern side of the island, or that occupied by the settlement, offers a very picturesque appearance; rising from the sea as a steep amphitheatre, luxuriantly wooded to its summit, and bounded on either side by precipitous cliffs, and naked and rugged rocks, of many fantastic forms.

The simple habitations of the people are scattered over this verdant declivity, and are half concealed by its abundant vegetation. They are neatly constructed of plank, thatched with leaves of the screw-pine, (*Pandanus fascicularis*), and provided with windows to which shutters are affixed. The greater number have but a single apartment, occupying the entire interior of the building, and floored with boards; while some few (called double-cottages) possess an upper room, which communicates by a ladder with the one beneath. The furniture they contain is scanty and of the rudest description; nevertheless, every thing about them denotes great attention to cleanliness and order."

"To each cottage is attached a plot of garden-ground, fenced round with roughly-hewn stakes, and planted with water melons, sweet potatoes, and gourds; while cattle-sheds, pigsties, and other out-houses, herds of swine and goats, and many European implements of agriculture, (including some *wheelbarrows*), afford a rural picture that forcibly reminds the Englishman of similar scenes in his native land."

"A comparative scarcity of water exists, since there are no natural streams, and the volcanic structure of the land precludes the formation of wells; but rain-water is largely received in ponds or tanks, and it is not until rain has been absent seven or eight successive months that the residents experience any material inconvenience from this cause. The greatest supply of water is still obtained from a natural excavation which was discovered by William Brown, the assistant botanist of the *Bounty*, and thence named 'Brown's Pond.' It is supposed to possess a spring. At this time the population consisted of eighty persons, of which the majority were children, and the proportion of females greater than that of males. The entire race, with the exception of the offspring of three Englishmen, resident on the island and married to native women, are the issue of the mutineers of the *Bounty*, whose surnames they bear, and from whom they have not as yet descended beyond the third generation."

The only survivors of the first settlers were two Tahitian women, the widow of Fletcher Christian, and of his eldest son, Thursday October. Her daughter, Mary, a young and interesting female, is the only spinster on the island; she perseveres in refusing the offers of her countrymen, to whom she expresses great aversion, but, unfortunately, her antipathy has not extended to Europeans, and a very fair infant claims her maternal attentions. In person, intellect, and habits, Mr. Bennett says, these islanders form a link between civilized man and the Polynesian nations:—

"A modest demeanour, a large share of good humour, and an artless and retiring grace, render the females peculiarly prepossessing. Some of the younger women have also pleasing countenances; but, on the whole, little can be said in favour of their beauty. They bear an influential sway both in domestic and public politics; and this they are the better calculated to do, since they are intelligent, active, and robust, partake in the labours of their husbands with cheerfulness, and, with but few and recent exceptions, live virtuous in all stations of life.—Their children are stout and shrewd little urchins, familiar and confident, but, at the same time, well behaved. They are early inured to aquatic exercises; and it amused us not a little to see small creatures, two or three years old, sprawling in the surf which broke upon the beach; their mothers sitting upon the rocks, watching their antics, and coolly telling them to 'come out, or they would be drowned;' whilst the older children, amusing themselves with their surf-boards, would dive out beneath the lofty breakers, and, availing themselves of a succeeding series, approach the coast, borne on the crest of a wave, with a velocity which threatened their instant destruction against the rocks; but, skillfully evading any contact with the shore, they again dived forth to meet and mount another of their foaming steeds."

Mr. Bennett states that there is every reason to believe that Pitcairn Island had been inhabited previous to its occupation by the crew of the *Bounty*:—

"In addition to the ruins of morais, images, &c. found on its soil, the islanders informed me that they had recently discovered two human skeletons, lying in the earth side by side, and the head of each resting on a pearl-shell. This last circumstance involves the history of the aborigines in yet greater obscurity; as the pearl-shell, although found in the adjacent islands, has never been seen in the waters around Pitcairn Island. Stone adzes, supposed to have belonged to this ancient race, are not unfrequently found by the present inhabitants, whilst cultivating the ground. Two of these were given to me by Hannah Young, the third daughter of John Adams. They are rudely fashioned, in the ordinary Polynesian form of such instruments; are composed of a black basalt, highly polished; and bear an appearance of great antiquity.—It is certainly difficult to account for the extinction of an original race upon a spot so replete with every essential for the support of human existence; and we are led to the hypothesis, that either one of the epidemic diseases, which occasionally scourge the islands of the Pacific, had destroyed the primitive inhabitants to the 'last man,' or that the island was but occasionally frequented, for religious or other purposes, by the people of some distant shore, who subsequently discontinued the custom."

The ship now proceeded to the Society Islands. That the inhabitants have, on the whole, benefited by their intercourse with civilized man cannot, we think, be doubted, though they may and have suffered from the introduction of spirits and the lax morality of their visitors:—

"The principal improvements the natives have made are in religious observances, and in the acquirement of the rudiments of education: the greater number can read the Scriptures in the Tahitian tongue; many can write a legible hand, and some few possess a good knowledge of arithmetic. The women have been instructed in plaiting straw-cinnet, in manufacturing hats and bonnets, in the use of the needle, and in the duties of domestic servants. The men are, to a limited extent, capable of working as shipwrights, blacksmiths, carpenters, and joiners; many also engage themselves to ships frequenting their island, when they speedily perform the duties of ordinary seamen with steadiness and ability. * * *

"The Tahitians are now a Christian nation. They worship in the Presbyterian form, and are under the pastoral care of eight British missionaries, who reside in the principal districts round the island, and have charge of the whole; although in some of the more remote villages native teachers perform the clerical duties.—No opinion is more questionable than that hazarded upon the amount of religious feeling possessed by any large community; but we are justified in believing that these islanders are good average Christians, if we compare their spiritual state with that of the Christian world at large. Many of them appear to be sincerely devout, and steadfast both in faith and works; others are induced by hypocrisy and interested motives, or influenced only by the prevailing opinions of the day; while a third, and by far the most numerous class, pass through the routine of devotional forms from a sense of propriety, or by the coercion of the laws, but view religious matters with indifference, and would be glad to escape from their restraints. The strictness, however, with which the island laws enforce the observance of religious forms, leaves the native but little latitude to gratify his inclination in this respect; consequently, on the Sabbath the churches are filled with the entire population, clothed in decent attire, and presenting an orderly and contented appearance, which makes a very favourable impression upon the foreign visitor.—That a large proportion of the natives are well instructed, and impressed with the importance of their new religion, may be inferred from the many of their number that have emigrated as teachers to the idolatrous islands, where, by their precept and example, they have done much to disseminate improved habits and the pure doctrine of the Christian faith. It is also but justice to admit, that crimes of magnitude are now of rare occurrence amongst them; and that the dishonesty they so prominently displayed upon their early intimacy with Europeans is now greatly diminished, or merged into the more ambiguous form of mercantile shrewdness."

They have benefited too in less spiritual matters.—The indigenous quadrupeds were limited to swine, dogs and rats, yet they have now a fine breed of oxen—have horses—and the swine are so improved that it is impossible to detect a trace of the aboriginal race. The sugar-cane is now also extensively cultivated—and to such an extent has the guava shrub flourished that it has altered the appearance of the low lands of the country:—

"Scarce twenty years have elapsed since this fruit-tree was first introduced here from Norfolk Island, and it now claims all the moist and fertile soil, in spite of every attempt to check its increase. The woodlands and bush, for miles in extent, are composed almost solely of this shrub, bearing during the entire year a constant succession of delicious fruit, and not unfrequently both mature berries and clusters of large white blossoms on the same bough. The natives are very partial to the fruit, and consume a large quantity of it; but during the months of March and April, when the crop is most abundant, no ordinary consumption can equal the supply, and vast numbers lie on the soil, unnoticed even by the surfeited hogs, which will touch none but the sweetest or most inviting in appearance. The stony hardness of its seeds, resisting the digestive power of animals, tends to disseminate the plant in every available direction."

The Raiateans have, it appears, made progress equal to the Tahitians in respect to education. What a reproach to civilized England is contained in the following brief passage:—

"Almost the entire population can read and write. European writing apparatus being scarce, they employ some ingenious substitutes, derived from indigenous materials. For slate-pencils, they use the calcareous spines of the sea-urchin, or a red ochre obtained from the hills; and in the place of pen and paper, they write with a pointed instrument upon a slip of plantain-leaf, when the characters present a bruised appearance, conspicuous in hue and texture above the general polished and light-green surface of the leaf. Proposals of marriage are now conveyed by letter, and the reply of the lady is made in the same delicate manner."

As a specimen of Mr. Bennett's observations as a naturalist, we shall give his account of the *Bêche-de-Mer* and the *Sea Anemone*:—

"Two kinds of *bêche de mer*, trepang, or sea-slug, (*Holothuria tremula*), are abundant on the reefs at Raiatea. One of them is uniformly black; the other is speckled brown-and-white, and has small circular and perforated tubercles on its back. The average length of each kind is about six or eight inches, the breadth from two to four. The body is thick in the centre and tapers gradually at either extremity; is convex and rugous above, flattened and covered with short tubular papillæ beneath. Their dense fleshy texture, and naked and slimy surface, justify the comparison that has been made between these molluscs and the land-slug. The head is distinguished by a series of hard shelly plates, encircling the orifice of the mouth, and is surrounded by many long and elegantly-branched tentacles, which are retractile, and can either be concealed or spread out loose and floating. In its habits the *bêche de mer* is very indolent; when handled, it contracts its body in the longitudinal direction, and should its tentacles be expanded they are instantly concealed; but no noise or agitation of the surrounding water will excite these symptoms of alarm, or cause any attempt to escape. They usually lie exposed in the shallow waters; though we have very often seen them buried in beds of coral sand; and their plump tentacles being alone exposed, and floating in the water above, apparently as a lure for prey. Some may also be observed lying on the rocks, their bodies completely incrustated with coral sand, which may either have been accumulated by a previous burrowing, or thus used as a disguise. It would appear to be partly the instinct of the animal to take its prey in ambush; but what that prey is, as well as the entire economy of these molluscs, remains a perplexing mystery. Their intestines invariably contain many hard and solid masses of madreporic rock or tree-coral, some of them more than an inch in length, and all

moulded, as pellets, to the calibre of the intestinal canal. It is difficult to say how these stony bodies have been obtained by the trepan, though it is easy to conceive that they may be rendered serviceable as nutriment by the assimilation of the animal matter they contain. It is this animal which the Malays of the Oriental Isles seek so diligently, for the supply of the China market, where it obtains a good price when well preserved. It is employed by the Chinese in the preparation of nutritious soups, in common with an esculent sea-weed, sharks' fins, edible birds' nests, and other materials affording much jelly. The only part of Polynesia in which *bêche de mer* is employed for commercial purposes is the low coral formation, Fenning's Island, in the North Pacific, where a settlement of Sandwich Islanders is formed for the express purpose of collecting and preparing this commodity for traffic with China. A second species of *Holothuria* (closely resembling *Sipunculus*) affects the same localities as the above. Its average length is three feet; its body is cylindrical and usually distended by muddy water; its skin is rough with minute spines and of a clouded-olive colour; its mouth is surrounded by tentacles and bony plates, similar to those of the *bêche de mer*. It lies passive upon the coral shoals close to the land, its body placed in a waved form, and often attached by its posterior extremity to a rock. The elegant flower-animal, *Diazona*, is found on the barrier-reef, expanding its numerous tentacles of pink-and-white hue as a disk of great circumference placed at the summit of a round and fleshy stem. When alarmed, it rapidly folds its tentacles inwards, and, sinking to the rock, contracts to a very diminutive size. Some sea-anemonies (*Actinea Zoanthi*, Cuv.), are also beautifully displayed on the same reef, which they cover as fields or mats of great extent. When expanded, they present a series of squares with elevated margins, their interior bright green, their exterior of a fawn-colour. Upon the slightest touch these polypi contract suddenly; and thus entire fields of them are, as by the touch of a magic wand, instantly changed from a brilliant green to a dull-brown colour, which, as the animals recover from their alarm and again expand, gives place to the original verdant hue."

Democracy in America. Part II. By Alexis de Tocqueville. Translated by Henry Reeve. Vols. III. & IV. Saunders & Otley.

THE popularity of this work in England is rather a striking phenomenon. Of all the nations of Europe, the English are most suspicious of general reasonings. Facts and figures, "without note or comment," (and often without guarantee) are their delight; and appeals to ultimate principles are regarded as no better than specious fallacies, adapted to divert attention from the special circumstances which constitute, in their apprehension, all the expediency or in expediency of the particular case. Mons. de Tocqueville's mode of treating his subject, on the contrary, is founded upon the most general considerations, and conducted by reasonings upon reasonings without end. So foreign, indeed, is it from the Englishman's customary cast of thought, that we doubt very much whether one reader in twenty will be able to follow the author, and comprehend the scope and drift of his argument. It is, in truth, as we stated of the preceding volumes, a heavy book. We are inclined, therefore, to believe that it has been more praised than read; or, at best, that it has been very generally studied in the extracts and comments of reviews and newspapers alone.

The secret of this exceptional judgment lies upon the surface. The work has been taken upon trust as a censure on Democracy in general, and on American democracy in particular: it is supposed to have made out a case against the boasted impeccability of the constitution of the United States, and it is accordingly the fashion to approve it. Had M. de Tocqueville, as he might have done, reversed the order of his thoughts, and treated of the influence of aristocratical governments, reinforcing his arguments by contrasts drawn from the other side of

the Atlantic, it is probable that he might have said the same things (excepting always his too celebrated catchword "a tyrant majority"), without exciting a similar enthusiasm; if, indeed, he would not have been taxed as an "enemy of social order" for his criticism.

But, whatever may be the cause, the calmly-judging few will probably think that the indiscriminate praise lavished in England on 'Democracy in America,' very much exceeds the merit of the work. Not that this work is the production of an inferior mind, or divested of many and great excellencies. On the contrary, M. de Tocqueville is among the most remarkable writers of his age and country; and there are few writings of the present day, on morals or politics, from which so much matter for reflection may be abstracted. But the merits of the author, great as they are, are overpowered by the vices of his system; and the utility which might have been drawn from the employment of his various talents on so stirring a theme, is lost by a fundamental error in their application.

The error to which we allude will be the most familiarly explained by the proverbial expression of cutting blocks with razors. Placing himself in the highest elevations of transcendental ratiocination, the author looks down on his subject from a point of view too distant to admit of distinct vision. There intervenes between the facts he regards, and himself, a dense atmosphere of abstract formulae, which alters their proportions and excludes many of their elements. There is no triumph of thought more difficult to attain, than that by which minds of a refined and superior order succeed in mastering the workings of inferior spirits. If conceited persons sometimes mistake in estimating at too low a rate the capacities of those around them, the opposite error is more common and more treacherous, which leads clever people to attribute to the masses all the reflections which pass through their own minds, and to presume that those, whose circumstances and antecedents may be wholly different, think and act precisely in the same way with themselves. To penetrate the feelings, and comprehend the prejudices and the workings of character in others, is the crowning excellence of the master-spirits of the drama; and it is a faculty the rarest to be met with on the stage. In philosophy it is a power no less desirable, and perhaps it is in that department not less rare. Its absence we take to be the leading defect of the work before us.

Instead of condescending to enter into the minds of the American people, and endeavouring to discover how events and circumstances impress the busy merchant of New York, or the rough backwoodsman of the "Far West," M. de Tocqueville is too prone to draw his inferences from the mode in which they affect himself, as they are seen through the spectacles of his favourite philosophy. In following the order of ideas, as they arise in his own speculative intellect, and attributing influences to the American population, which himself only perceives as in a vista, at the end of a long suite of abstractions, he seems to us another Micromegas, judging of the intellectual workings of beings whose very existence he scarcely comprehends. His method is to assume some very abstract notion, such as democracy, equality, unity, &c., and to examine how the presence of that idea would influence certain other general conceptions; that is to say, how the two ideas affect each other in his own meditative mind, with its own peculiar associations and reminiscences.

We do not mean to say, that the author systematically avoids taking into consideration the peculiar circumstances which modify the position and the prospects of the American citizen. It does not belong to such a writer to

commit so great an error: but we contend, that in taking such items into the account, he frequently draws very subtle deductions as to their presumed influence on mixed population, from the workings of his own peculiar dialectic. Against all reasonings of this cast, from those of Montesquieu downwards, it may be affirmed that they are, almost of necessity, defective in their premises. No industry can identify, no intellect comprehend, the entire sum of influences which go to determine national character, and the fate of institutions; and from one neglected element there may arise a series of causations that will stultify the cleverest forecast. Above all, no ability will enable a philosophical politician to foreshow those compensating movements of society, by which it finds a practical remedy for a growing evil, even before that evil is made manifest to public consciousness. The British constitution is full of these compensations, scarcely any one of its elements working precisely according to theory. Sometimes the instincts of classes and corps corrupt and turn aside the blessings anticipated from an institution; sometimes the instincts of the masses discover means for deriving benefits out of that which is in itself base and vicious; often it is the spontaneous working of material causes acting independently of all voluntary interference. Against such a source of false deduction there is so little protection, that nothing, even in daily politics, occurs precisely as it was anticipated.

But, in addition to this error, M. de Tocqueville's speculations are infected with the ordinary uncertainty and imperfections which flow from an habitual abuse of abstract language. It is seldom that his reasonings turn upon the facts themselves which he has observed. The materials of his argument are, at best, facts translated into the most general, and, therefore, the most vague terms. He leads us to imagine, as he himself imagines, that he is discussing things, when, in truth, we are employed on words;—and that too on words of the most fluctuating and unfixed meanings.

Besides the logical errors to which this sort of argument is liable, the habit it implies of fixing the mind on its own operations, and of hunting down the consequences of single propositions, tends powerfully to exclude from notice many things which are passing without. It leads by the shortest road to the substitution of the *non causa pro causa*; and to overlook, in the pursuit of refinements, some coarser but more influential particular, which is essential to a just estimate of the result.

To take a particular instance, we need but refer to that *not* already noticed—the "tyrant majority." Abstractedly considered, major forces, no matter where they are vested, are major forces; and whether they consist in a majority of free citizens, or of the bayonets of an absolute sovereign, they will doubtless, as the author states, have their will, no matter at whose expense. This, which is common to every form of government—to every irresponsible agency, from the throne to the nursery—is urged as an argument against American Institutions. Now the theorem, though verbally plausible, is really riddled with holes. In the first place, it is not true that nations, more than individuals, systematically and perseveringly act wrong. Order, in the long run, reigns over disorder; and if popular authority sometimes plays the fool, the folly forms the exception, and not the rule. The argument, therefore, is one merely from abuse to use. But what is the remedy proposed for the imputed evil? The creation of classes and corps, to distract and divide the public will, and consequently to deprive a society of half its forces. Classes and corps, moreover, are partial interests, and cor-

ruption is their normal condition; with them, therefore, the abuse is the rule, the use the exception.

So much, then, for the conclusion itself: let us now turn to the premises. Lynch law, in some of its modifications, is the one fact upon which this elaborate sophism ultimately rests. This, however, is no necessary result of democracy: it is a condition of incivilization, under any government; it is the black mail of feudal times, disguised under another form; it is brute force opposed to all law—all government. Undoubtedly, when it is proposed by the theorist that men should govern themselves, it must be presumed that they are possessed of political knowledge and common honesty; just as when we admit a man to the civil rights of majority, we presume that he is not an idiot nor a criminal. But is this not equally presumed in the theory of all governments? It is impossible to conceive, for a moment, that the Americans are so imbecile as to desire the general prevalence of Lynch law, or any approach to it, as a part of their political system. That therefore is an accident—an evil to be remedied. M. de Tocqueville himself, in the present portion of his work, shows that it is no necessary consequence of that system, when he admits the contravailing influence of the American disposition to associate.

"As soon as several of the inhabitants of the United States have taken up an opinion or a feeling which they wish to promote in the world, they look out for mutual assistance; and as soon as they have found each other out, they combine. From that moment they are no longer isolated men, but a power seen from afar, whose actions serve for an example, and whose language is listened to. The first time I heard in the United States that a hundred thousand men had bound themselves publicly to abstain from spirituous liquors, it appeared to me more like a joke than a serious engagement; and I did not at once perceive why these temperate citizens could not content themselves with drinking water by their own firesides. I at last understood that these hundred thousand Americans, alarmed by the progress of drunkenness around them, had made up their minds to patronize temperance. They acted just in the same way as a man of high rank who should dress very plainly, in order to inspire the humbler orders with a contempt of luxury. It is probable, that if these hundred thousand men had lived in France, each of them would singly have memorialized the government to watch the public-houses all over the kingdom."

Here then is an antidote to the tyrant majority. It is notorious that the slavery abolitionists, who have been the most oppressed by that majority, have, by association, succeeded in altering their position; and that, if they act with prudence, they will ultimately prevail against ignorant and immoral numbers, may be predicted with as much certainty, as can be predicated of any moral anticipation.—[Voice from America, see *Athen.* No. 598.]

We have an instance of the defectiveness of M. de Tocqueville's method in the outset of the volumes immediately before us. His endeavour is to prove that the political preponderance of the majority must lead to the extinction of private opinion.

"The fact that the political laws of the Americans are such that the majority rules the community with sovereign sway, materially increases the power which that majority naturally exercises over the mind. For nothing is more customary in man than to recognise superior wisdom in the person of his oppressor. This political omnipotence of the majority in the United States doubtless augments the influence which public opinion would obtain without it over the mind of each member of the community; but the foundations of that influence do not rest upon it. They must be sought for in the principle of equality itself, not in the more or less popular institutions which men living under that condition may give themselves. The intellectual dominion of the greater number would probably be less absolute amongst a democratic

people governed by a king than in the sphere of a pure democracy, but it will always be extremely absolute; and by whatever political laws men are governed in the ages of equality, it may be foreseen that faith in public opinion will become a species of religion there, and the majority its ministering prophet. Thus intellectual authority will be different, but it will not be diminished; and far from thinking that it will disappear, I augur that it may readily acquire too much preponderance, and confine the action of private judgment within narrower limits than are suited either to the greatness or the happiness of the human race. In the principle of equality I very clearly discern two tendencies; the one leading the mind of every man to untried thoughts, the other inclined to prohibit him from thinking at all. And I perceive how, under the dominion of certain laws, democracy would extinguish that liberty of the mind to which a democratic social condition is favourable; so that, after having broken all the bondage once imposed on it by ranks or by men, the human mind would be closely fettered to the general will of the greatest number."

Few persons, we imagine, will read this extract, without at least a confused apprehension that the conclusion must be false. The logical error is this—the terms "majority" and "opinion" are verbally constants; and wherever they appear in the argument, figure as identities. But, in fact, a "majority" is a floating quantity, not only as respects its individual members, but as to its feelings, thoughts, and volitions: so too is "opinion." Opinion is not a thought, but an ever-varying bundle of thoughts. No majority is so constant, as perpetually to desire the same ends by the same means;—that belongs only to isolated corps: the very members of a popular majority are driven from day to day, and from hour to hour, to revolt against that authority which, on one particular point, they may respect. The majority for slavery in the United States, for instance, is co-existent with a majority for reverencing the deity, and obeying his laws; and the one majority will control and modify the influence of the other. Again, does not the author overthrow his own inference by the passage we have marked in italics? Can the habit of seeking untried thoughts co-exist with the habit of not thinking at all? Must not one of these tendencies control and overpower the other? As long as mankind are permitted in any department of thought to speculate boldly and independently, the influence of authority in every other is manifestly endangered; and that impulse of human nature which has overpowered all inquisitions, Venetian or Spanish—which has broken through the trammels of ignorance, and risen above the grossest superstitions, has little to fear from tyrant majorities—certainly not more than it has encountered from such majorities under governments where institutions are anything but purely democratic.

Apropos to the same defective logic, we may notice, that the author has drawn a distinction, which others have also adopted, between freedom and equality; and he assumes that democratic nations look more to equality than freedom. To us, it appears that the distinction, thoroughly sifted, is merely verbal; and the author virtually admits that it is so:—

"It is possible to imagine an extreme point at which freedom and equality would meet and be confounded together. Let us suppose that all the members of the community take a part in the government, and that each one of them has an equal right to take a part in it. As none is different from his fellows, none can exercise a tyrannical power: men will be perfectly free, because they will all be entirely equal; and they will all be perfectly equal, because they will be entirely free. To this ideal state democratic nations tend. Such is the completest form that equality can assume upon earth; but there are a thousand others which, without being equally perfect, are not less cherished by those nations."

Are not the two things, in their perfection, therefore, strictly identical? What, then, we may ask, is freedom, where one class has more privileges than another? Will not the privileged class use its power to obtain a licence for itself, which is oppression to others? Where political inequality exists, freedom, if not insecure, is imperfect. Taxation without suffrage, for instance, is tyranny. Which pays the highest in proportion to means, the represented, or the non-represented? Do we not also sometimes hear, in States comparatively free, of one law for the poor, and another for the rich? and do not such facts show that freedom follows in its degrees a close ratio to political equality?

But the author continues—

"The principle of equality may be established in civil society, without prevailing in the political world. Equal rights may exist of indulging in the same pleasures, of entering the same professions, of frequenting the same places—in a word, of living in the same manner, and seeking wealth by the same means, although all men do not take an equal share in the government. A kind of equality may even be established in the political world, though there should be no political freedom there. A man may be the equal of all his countrymen save one, who is the master of all without distinction, and who selects equally from among them all the agents of his power."

As for the first part of this quotation, we may observe, that the author's notion of equality amounts pretty nearly to Horne Tooke's famous proposition regarding the London Tavern; it is weak even to puerility: and as to the last, the equality which makes one exception in the person of a despot, is a mere contradiction in terms: we might as well say that all dead men are equally alive.

To assert, therefore, that any nation is more attached to equality than it is to liberty, is merely to say, that the people have yet to learn what either one or the other really is. Ignorant people are more attached to what affects their senses, or touches their immediate interests, than to what is remote from their daily observation. A silly Frenchman may be more offended by his friend having the privilege to wear a star on his breast, than by his having an exclusive right to vote for a deputy; but this only proves that he is an ignoramus; and of such there are as many in monarchies as in democracies. The fault is in human nature, and no form of government can provide for it. The same loose reasoning pervades the entire chapter:—

"Freedom," it is said, "has appeared in the world at different times and under various forms; it has not been exclusively bound to any social condition, and it is not confined to democracies. Freedom cannot, therefore, form the distinguishing characteristic of democratic ages. The peculiar and preponderating fact which marks those ages as its own is the equality of conditions; the ruling passion of men in those periods is the love of this equality. Ask not what singular charm the men of democratic ages find in being equal, or what special reasons they may have for clinging so tenaciously to equality rather than to the other advantages which society holds out to them: equality is the distinguishing characteristic of the age they live in; that, of itself, is enough to explain that they prefer it to all the rest. But independently of this reason there are several others, which will at all times habitually lead men to prefer equality to freedom. • •

"Democratic nations are at all times fond of equality, but there are certain epochs at which the passion they entertain for it swells to the height of fury. This occurs at the moment when the old social system, long menaced, completes its own destruction after a last intestine struggle, and when the barriers of rank are at length thrown down. At such times men pounce upon equality as their booty, and they cling to it as to some precious treasure which they fear to lose. The passion for equality penetrates on every side into men's hearts, expands there,

and fills them entirely. Tell them not that by this blind surrender of themselves to an exclusive passion, they risk their dearest interests: they are deaf. Show them not freedom escaping from their grasp, whilst they are looking another way: they are blind—or rather, they can discern but one sole object to be desired in the universe. What I have said is applicable to all democratic nations: what I am about to say concerns the French alone. Amongst most modern nations, and especially amongst all those of the continent of Europe, the taste and the idea of freedom only began to exist and to extend itself at the time when social conditions were tending to equality, and as a consequence of that very equality. Absolute kings were the most efficient levellers of ranks amongst their subjects. Amongst these nations equality preceded freedom: equality was therefore a fact of some standing, when freedom was still a novelty: the one had already created customs, opinions, and laws belonging to it, when the other, alone and for the first time, came into actual existence. Thus the latter was still only an affair of opinion and of taste, whilst the former had already crept into the habits of the people, possessed itself of their manners, and given a particular turn to the smallest actions in their lives. Can it be wondered that the men of our own time prefer the one to the other? I think that democratic communities have a natural taste for freedom: left to themselves, they will seek it, cherish it, and view any privation of it with regret. But for equality, their passion is ardent, insatiable, incessant, invincible: they call for equality in freedom; and if they cannot obtain that, they still call for equality in slavery. They will endure poverty, servitude, barbarism,—but they will not endure aristocracy."

One might be led to imagine from this tirade, which we should be loth to stigmatize with the term twaddle, that freedom were an absolute something incapable of difference either in kind or degree. Freedom, we are told, has existed under different forms (of government), as if freedom were an entity, like gold or stone. Under certain forms of government, men have been less restrained than under others: but there are particular forms of undue restraint, and particular quantities of it, which, without amounting to absolute slavery, should be and are ranged under that term, as compared with political liberty. Under some forms of government the condition of the subject may approach nearer to the former than the latter, and yet in such loose reasoning as the above, be called free. The inevitable consequence, however, of so employing an abstract term is a false result. Such is the first deduction, that "freedom cannot be the distinguishing characteristic of democratic ages." Admitting that a certain degree of liberty has appeared in the world, under different forms of government, yet it does not follow that the government which confessedly seeks to increase the sum of liberty to all, is not entitled to claim the characteristic as distinguishing. What the author says of the equality which was introduced into Europe by kings, holds equally if the terms be changed. May it not be said with equal truth, that kings conferred franchises on the roturiers at the expense of the nobles, and that the enjoyment of those liberties begot a taste for some special equality, of which the franchise was but the guarantee? It cannot, therefore, be said that equality either preceded or followed freedom. The two words are, after all, but different expressions for the same fact. In point of language, freedom is, indeed, the elder brother: men talked of freedom for ages before the abstraction we call equality entered into the popular mind. As for the supposed preference for equality which followed the French revolution, it was but the usual error of ignorance, the mistaking the outward sign for the thing signified. If it be in any degree true that the educated Frenchman of the present day prefers equality, and is careless of freedom, it proves only that the nation really possesses a high degree of liberty,

without knowing in what it consists. But the main item of this elaborate ratiocination, after all, is left out of consideration. The French hostility to privilege (which is at the root of M. de Tocqueville's thought) is an hostility to an institution closely connected with the insecurity of the existing tenure of land. Personal equality is the advanced guard against the attacks of feudality and a restoration of forfeited estates.

We meet with such oversights as this again and again. Thus, it is said, that the spread of Roman Catholicism is a natural consequence of democracy; when it is manifestly a necessary consequence of the excessive excitement which prevails on religion generally. Wherever there is a morbid anxiety on the score of religious safety, the boldest offerer of security will usually carry the day.

We have thus, we think, shown sufficient cause why we should not accept of these volumes as our political guides. In pursuing this end, we have not done justice to the work, and may perhaps return to it, for the purpose of selecting some more favourable specimens. We cannot, however, pause here, without bearing our fullest testimony to the able manner in which Mr. Reeve has executed his translation. He has shown himself possessed of a terse and manly style, of a full acquaintance with his author, and of a mind habitually turned to the contemplation of philosophical investigations.

Memoirs of the Life of Sir Samuel Romilly, &c.

[Concluding Notice.]

WE cannot close these delightful volumes without a few more extracts:—

Mr. Pitt in 1783.—"Our ministers seem, in the House of Commons, to be very weak in orators, however strong they may be in numbers. If Mr. Pitt had more experience, and were more accustomed to business, in short, if he were some years older than he is, he might almost alone support the administration; but talents as wonderful even as those he possesses, can hardly qualify a man, at the age of twenty-three or twenty-four, for the arduous part he has to sustain. With a great command of language and quickness of parts, it is no difficult task to support any side in a debate; but to propose taxes in such a manner as may be palatable to the Parliament, when almost every resource of finance is exhausted, and to be ready to answer the multitude of objections which are started from every quarter of the House, is an undertaking to which one would suppose nothing but long habit and the most perfect knowledge of the subject could render any man equal."

Bentham and Owen.—"Bentham is, I am afraid, about to engage in a speculation respecting the mills at Lanark, in Scotland, which is to have the double object of making the fortunes of those who engage in it, and of extending education and instruction among the lower orders of the people. I endeavoured strongly to dissuade him from it, thinking that, at his time of life and in his situation, it was great folly to embark in any concern which, by possibility, no matter how remote, might involve him in difficulty and in distress, and ultimately in ruin. All my good advice, however, only made him very angry; as if he did not know how to manage his own affairs, as if he wanted advice, or was to be treated like a child, &c. &c. I told him that the man who was engaging him in this, though very well-intentioned, was really a little mad. To which his answer was, 'I know that as well as you; but what does that signify?' He is not mad *simpliciter*, but only *secundum quid*. Finding nothing was to be done, I took my leave of him, contrived to make him laugh, and put him at last in good humour by telling him that, though he would not take my advice, he might depend upon it that, when he was an uncertificated bankrupt, I would not turn my back upon him."

Bentham.—"Our last visit was to my old and most valuable friend Jeremy Bentham, at Ford Abbey, in the neighbourhood of Chard; a house which he rents, and which once belonged to Prideaux, the Attorney

General of the Commonwealth. I was not a little surprised to find in what a palace my friend was lodged. The grandeur and stateliness of the buildings form as strange a contrast to his philosophy, as the number and spaciousness of the apartments, the hall, the chapel, the corridors, and the cloisters, do to the modesty and scantiness of his domestic establishment. We found him passing his time, as he has always been passing it since I have known him, which is now more than thirty years, closely applying himself for six or eight hours a day in writing upon laws and legislation, and in composing his Civil and Criminal Codes; and spending the remaining hours of every day in reading, or taking exercise by way of fitting himself for his labours, or, to use his own strangely invented phraseology, taking his ante-jentacular and post-prandial walks, to prepare himself for his task of codification. There is something burlesque enough in this language; but it is impossible to know Bentham, and to have witnessed his benevolence, his disinterestedness, and the zeal with which he has devoted his whole life to the service of his fellow-creatures, without admiring and revering him."

The Duchess of Oldenburg.—"Our Prince is not quite in such high spirits as he was in a little while ago. The arrival of the illustrious visitors he expected is put off for the present, and some difficulties have arisen about the Princess Charlotte's marriage, which have made it necessary at least to postpone it. The intended bridegroom, in the meantime, is living in lodgings at a tailor's in great obscurity, and with no appearance of opulence. The Duchess of Oldenburg has fallen into great disfavour. She is supposed to have given bad advice to the Princess Charlotte, and she was guilty of the indiscretion of paying a visit to Whitbread at his brewery. The Prince has since said to her, that he supposes when she goes to Paris she will make a point of seeing Santerre. The great object of his Royal Highness at present, is to prevent the Princess going to the Queen's drawing-room, and being present at any of the festivals, which the different clubs are about to give upon the restoration of peace. It is hardly credible what pains he has given himself to accomplish this noble purpose. He has written a letter to the Queen, in which he tells her that he has come to a determination never to be in the same room with the Princess; and he therefore desires her Majesty to take care that the Princess is not at the drawing-room. The Queen has accordingly signified this to the Princess, and the Princess in revenge means to publish the letters. Is not the condition of this nation a happy one when these are our most important public events?"

Festivities in 1814.—"London has for a long time been half crazy with emperors, and kings, and shows, and illuminations, and fireworks. It has at last sunk into a dead torpor, which is very stupid to the few fashionable persons who may be still lingering in town, but which is very salutary to the lower and laborious orders of the people. The mischief which has been done to the morals and happiness of the inferior artisans by the long holidays, which they have been indulged with, is hardly to be conceived. I have been assured that several pawnbrokers have declared that, while these festivals lasted, they lent, on the pledges of the clothes, and furniture, and tools of their poor customers, about ten times as much as they are accustomed to do in ordinary times."

Whitbread.—"Poor Whitbread this morning destroyed himself, as it should seem, in a sudden fit of insanity. His friends have, for some time past, felt great anxiety about him. His health has been manifestly declining, and though he spoke, only two days ago, in the House of Commons, against the vote of thanks to the Duke of York, he has, I understand, for some time past, occasionally discovered an unaccountable despondency. A greater loss the country could not at the present moment experience than it has suffered in poor Whitbread. He was the promoter of every liberal scheme for improving the condition of mankind, the warm and zealous advocate of the oppressed in every part of the world, and the undaunted opposer of every species of corruption and ill-administration. The only faults he had proceeded from an excess of his virtues. His anxious desire to do justice impartially to all men certainly made him, upon some occasions, unjust to his friends, and induced him to give credit and to bestow

praises on his political enemies to which they were in no respect entitled."

Brougham.—"Brougham, who supported the motion, made a violent attack upon the Regent, whom he described as devoted, in the recesses of his palace, to the most vicious pleasures, and callous to the distresses and sufferings of others, in terms which would not have been too strong to have described the latter days of Tiberius. Several persons who would have voted for the motion were so disgusted that they went away without voting; and more, who wished for some tolerable pretext for not voting against Ministers, and who on this occasion could not vote with them, availed themselves of this excuse and went away too; and it is generally believed that, but for this speech of Brougham's, the Ministers would have been again in a minority. If this had happened, many persons believe or profess to believe that the Ministers would have been turned out. Poor Brougham is loaded with the reproaches of his friends; and many of them who are most impatient to get into office, look upon him as the only cause that they are still destined to labour on in an unprofitable opposition. I have no doubt that, whatever had been the division, the Ministers would still have continued in office. But it is not the less true that Brougham's speech was very injudicious as well as very unjust; for, with all the Prince's faults, and they are great enough, it is absurd to speak of him as if he were one of the most sensual and unfeeling tyrants that ever disgraced a throne. Brougham is a man of the most splendid talents and the most extensive acquirements, and he has used the ample means which he possesses most usefully for mankind. It would be difficult to overrate the services which he has rendered the cause of the slaves in the West Indies, or that of the friends to the extension of knowledge and education among the poor, or to praise too highly his endeavours to serve the oppressed inhabitants of Poland. How much is it to be lamented that his want of judgment and of prudence should prevent his great talents, and such good intentions, from being as great a blessing to mankind as they ought to be."

Sheridan.—"On the invitation of the family of Richard Brinsley Sheridan, I this day attended his funeral. I understood that it was to be very private, and that he was to be followed to the grave only by a few of his friends, and of those who had been particularly connected with him in politics. When I arrived at Peter Moore's house in George Street, to which the body had been removed, as being near to Westminster Abbey, where it was to be buried, I was astonished at the number and the description of persons who were assembled there; the Duke of York, Lord Sidmouth, Lord Mulgrave, Lord Anglesea, Lord Lyndoch, Wellesley Pole, and many others, whose politics have been generally opposite to Sheridan's, and who could grace the funeral with their presence, only to pay a tribute to his extraordinary talents. How strange a contrast! For some weeks before his death, he was nearly destitute of the means of subsistence. Executions for debt were in his house; and he passed his last days in the custody of sheriff's officers, who abstained from conveying him to prison merely because they were assured that to remove him would cause his immediate death; and now, when dead, a crowd of persons the first in rank, and station, and opulence, were eager to attend him to his grave. I believe that many, and I am sure that some, of the mourners were self-invited. Such certainly were three of the Prince's friends, Lord Yarmouth, Bloomfield, and Leach. They sent a letter from Carlton House the day before the funeral, expressing a desire to attend, and their offer was not refused. The Prince, about ten days before Sheridan's death, when he was in great distress, and after some of the newspapers had observed upon the strange inattention he met with, had sent him a present of 200*l.*; but Mrs. Sheridan had the spirit to refuse it, and when she communicated to her husband what she had done, he approved her conduct. The immediate cause of his death was reported to be an abscess; but the truth is, that his constitution was nearly worn out, and that his death was rapidly accelerated by grief, disappointment, and a deep sense of the neglect he experienced."

In 1805 Romilly was appointed to the Chancellorship of Durham.

"Though I had not wished for the office, I accepted it. The emolument attending it I knew to be very inconsiderable, not much more than the amount of the expense of going to Durham to discharge its duties. The honour is not generally considered, either in or out of the profession, as a very high one, and certainly had no charms for me; and it was impossible I could look to the office as the source of any pleasure. I yielded, therefore, in a great degree, in accepting it, to public opinion. Attorneys and Solicitors General had of late hardly thought themselves at liberty to refuse it; and I was partly afraid of incurring the reproach of being solely intent upon amassing a fortune by my labours. I was actuated, too, by another, though not a very powerful motive. I was desirous of trying the experiment how I should acquit myself, and how I should feel in a judicial office. * * But though a Chancellor of Durham has not the comfort of reflecting that his services are of much public utility, he may, if he be fond of such things, enjoy the grandeur and magnificence and homage which attend him. The castle of Durham, the episcopal palace, is, when the Chancellor arrives, given up to him by the Bishop. It is his house; the servants attend upon him as the lord of it; a costly dinner is given to the dignitaries of the church, to the counsel, the officers of the court, and the neighbouring gentlemen; and this, though at the Bishop's expense, is, by a kind of legal fiction, considered as the Chancellor's dinner. The invitations are sent in his name; he presides at the table; and when the Bishop is at Auckland, the Chancellor invites and receives him as his guest. Though I was, in some degree prepared for this, I could not, upon my arrival at Durham, but feel very forcibly the ridicule of all this mimic grandeur. It was night when we got there, for my dear Anne, who had been accompanying me on a short and hasty tour to the Lakes of Cumberland, was with me. We found that we had been long expected; and as we drove through the gates into the spacious court, and the porter sounded the great bell, we saw the servants hurrying out with lights. In the midst of bows and compliments, and by numerous attendants, we were conducted through long lighted galleries into a drawing-room, where some of the officers of the court and their wives were waiting to receive us, and 'My Lord' and 'Your Honour' ushered in every phrase that was uttered. So sudden a transformation into a great man, and the lord of an old feudal palace, reminded me of Sancho's government of Barataria; and still more of Sly, the drunken cobbler of Shakespeare. But to me all this ceremonial was not more ridiculous than it was irksome. The necessity of making conversation with persons I had never seen before, and of presiding at table and doing the honours of a great dinner, were to me so disgusting and painful, that the experience of two tedious days passed at Durham would have been sufficient to cure me of all ambitious desires, if I could have imagined that the duties of a Chancellor of England bore any resemblance to those of a Chancellor of Durham. The decision of the few causes which came before me, in none of which did any question of difficulty arise, hardly deserves the serious name of a duty, when compared with the more arduous task of acting the part of Lord of a castle not my own, and of considering as my welcome guests the numerous strangers whom I met at table."

In 1806 he was appointed Solicitor General.

"I was this day sworn in, together with Piggott, the new Attorney-General, and we attended the levee at the Queen's House, and kissed the King's hand on our appointment. His Majesty was pleased to knight us both, greatly against our inclination. Never was any city trader, who carried up a loyal address to his Majesty, more anxious to obtain, than we were to escape, this honour. We applied to Lord Dartmouth, the lord in waiting, to Lord Grenville, Lord Spencer, and everybody on whom we thought it might depend, to deprecate the ceremony which awaited us. But the King was inflexible. For the last twenty years of his reign, it has pleased his Majesty to knight all attorneys and solicitors general and judges on their appointment, though for the first five-and-twenty years he had never seen the necessity or propriety of it; and now, every man who arrives at those situations must submit to the humili-

ation of having inflicted on him that which is called' but is considered neither by himself nor any other person an honour. Perceval, the last Attorney-General, had been permitted to decline knighthood because he was an Earl's son."

We shall conclude with one of a hundred passages, devoted to his amiable and beloved wife:—

"We stayed at Bowood ten days. The amiable disposition of Lord and Lady Lansdowne always renders this place delightful to their guests. To me, besides the enjoyment of the present moment, there is always added, when I am at Bowood, a thousand pleasing recollections of past times; of the happy days I have spent, of the various society of distinguished persons I have enjoyed, of the friendships I have formed, here; and, above all, that it was here that I first saw and became known to my dearest Anne. If I had not chanced to meet with her here, there is no probability that I ever should have seen her; for she had never been, nor was likely, unmarried, ever to have come, to London. To what accidental causes are the most important occurrences of our lives sometimes to be traced! Some miles from Bowood is the form of a white horse, grotesquely cut out upon the downs, and forming a land-mark to a wide extent of country. To that object it is that I owe all the real happiness of my life. In the year 1796, I made a visit to Bowood. My dear Anne, who had been staying there some weeks, with her father and her sisters, was about to leave it. The day fixed for their departure was the eve of that on which I arrived; and, if nothing had occurred to disappoint their purpose, I never should have seen her. But it happened that, on the preceding day, she was one of an equestrian party which was made to visit this curious object; she over-heated herself by her ride; a violent cold and pain in her face was the consequence. Her father found it indispensably necessary to defer his journey for several days, and in the meantime I arrived. I saw in her the most beautiful and accomplished creature that ever blessed the sight and understanding of man. A most intelligent mind, an uncommonly correct judgment, a lively imagination, a cheerful disposition, a noble and generous way of thinking, an elevation and heroism of character, and a warmth and tenderness of affection such as is rarely found even in her sex, were among her extraordinary endowments. I was captivated alike by the beauties of her person and the charms of her mind. A mutual attachment was formed between us, which, at the end of a little more than a year, was consecrated by marriage. All the happiness I have known in her beloved society, all the many and exquisite enjoyments which my dear children have afforded me, even my extraordinary success in my profession, the labours of which, if my life had not been so cheered and exhilarated, I never could have undergone,—all are to be traced to this trivial cause."

Lady Romilly died on the 29th of October 1818. Her husband survived but three days. His anxiety during her illness preyed upon his mind, "and the shock, occasioned by her death, led to that event which brought his life to a close, on the 2nd of November, 1818, in the sixty-second year of his age."

A Description of British Guiana, Geographical and Statistical, &c. By R. H. Schomburgk, Esq. Simpkin & Co.

Is this pamphlet of 150 pages, Mr. Schomburgk, who is already known as a scientific traveller in the New World, proposes to describe the physical character of British Guiana, to explain the resources and capabilities of the colonies situated therein, together with their present condition and future prospects. The precise object of this publication, however, seems to be, to assert, in these days of systematized emigration, the claims of British Guiana to a preference as a place of settlement. The advantages derivable from its fine rivers, its valuable timber, and its inexhaustible fertility of soil, are here insisted on with a good faith and soundness of information, which cannot fail to win the attention even of those

who are most inveterately sceptical respecting that rapid growth of wealth and happiness, so liberally promised by all the projectors of new settlements. But before we proceed to examine the more assailable—for we cannot justly call them the more fallacious—of our author's propositions, we must briefly advert to the politico-geographical situation of our South American possessions.

British Guiana, comprising the basins of the rivers Berbice, Demerara, and Essequibo, is separated from Dutch Guiana, or Surinam on the south-east, by the river Corentyn. On the opposite quarter, or north-west, a line of demarcation less simple, and not as yet perfectly agreed on, divides it from the Columbian territories; while the extensive boundary lines, which separate British Guiana on the south-west and south from the Portuguese possessions, are, it appears, equally liable to dispute; that is to say, the reputed boundary does not coincide with those natural landmarks, to which, in the absence of special agreement, reference must be always made in the work of territorial division. It is the natural consequence of the wholesale partition of unsurveyed and imperfectly explored regions, that the nations partaking of them should be continually vexed with questions of disputed boundary. But it is important to observe that the annoyance of such disputes and loss arising from them, are always more likely to fall on the more civilized of the co-limetary states; for, in the first instance, the aggression is sure to come from the side of the less perfectly organized government; and afterwards, when the affair proceeds to negotiation, evasion and disputatiousness, calculated only to darken the question, will probably characterize the same party; and besides, a disposition to concede something, is, in general, rather to be expected from the generosity of those who are superior, than from any sense of inferiority on the other side. An illustration of what is here said will be found in the following statement made by our author:—

“A mission to the Macusi Indians promised great success. A protestant clergyman, the Rev. Mr. Youde, settled at Pirara, a village at our undetermined south-western boundary, and the Indians in the neighbourhood soon collected around him, and evinced the greatest anxiety to be instructed in the word of God, and our language. I have seen from three to four hundred Indians on a Sabbath, dressed according to their circumstances, and in an orderly manner, assembled within a rude house of prayer built by their own hands, to receive instruction in the holy word of God. The mission was not established many months, when the Brazilian government of the upper and lower Amazon despatched a detachment of militia, and took possession of the mission under the plea that the village belonged to the Brazilian territory. The missionary of the church of England was accused of having alienated the Indians from the Brazilian government, and instructed them in the English language and religion, and received an injunction to leave the village. The Indians, fearing the Brazilians might conduct them into slavery, dispersed in the forest and in the mountains, and the work which promised such favourable results was destroyed.”

The Brazilians, while harassing the missions on the frontiers of British Guiana, succumb quietly to the French, who have advanced far within the boundary of Portuguese Guiana, and have settled themselves nearly at the mouth of the river of Amazons. But a semi-barbarous people, like the Brazilians, know no law but force. It availed them but little, that under the pretence of securing themselves on the side of French Guiana, they swept away all the Indian tribes from that frontier, and reduced an immense tract of country to a perfect solitude. Mr. Schomburgk's narrative authorizes our conjecture, that the Indians so removed were carried into slavery. The following anecdote exposes

the hateful motives of those who were indignant at the progress of social order and civilization among the Macusi Indians at Pirara:—

“The system of the Brazilians of hunting the Indians for slaves exists to this day in all its atrocities. These slaving expeditions, or descimentos, from political motives are always directed towards the contested boundaries; and their practice is, when arrived at a populous Indian village, to await the mantle of the night in ambush, and to fall over their unsuspecting victims when enjoying the first sleep. By setting their cabins on fire and discharging their muskets they create consternation, and succeed in securing the greater part of the former peaceful inhabitants. I had thus the grief, while at the Brazilian boundary fort San Joaquim on the Rio Branco, in August 1838, to witness the arrival of a similar expedition, who surprised an Indian village near the Urato mountains, on the eastern bank of the river Takutu, on the contested boundary of British Guiana, and carried forty individuals, namely, eighteen children under twelve years of age, thirteen women, and nine men, of whom only four were under thirty years of age, and two above fifty, into slavery. These abominable proceedings were carried on under the warrant of the district authorities.”

The Indians of various tribes, the chief of which are of Carib race, at present dwelling within the limits of British Guiana, on a territory of at least 70,000 square miles, are estimated by our author not to exceed 7,000, a miserable remnant of a race, once the sole possessors of the soil, and who are, in his opinion, as susceptible of cultivation as any other portion of mankind. If our colonies were generally ruled by men of enlarged minds, acquainted with the science as well as the arts of government, and not chosen merely for their capability of keeping up the parade of official rank, British Guiana might boast a much larger aboriginal population. During the wars of the Spanish American revolution, the half-civilized Indian communities gathered round the Spanish missionaries, being all attached to the vanquished royalist party, were obliged in many instances to seek refuge within the British territory, where they might have been easily induced to remain by a little attention and liberality. But the advantages to be derived from a fixed and peaceable aboriginal population were not perceived by the local government, and the fugitive Indians either relapsed into savage life and were cut off by the other tribes, or after painfully struggling for years they made their way back to their former abodes.

We must now give attention to what appears to be the weightiest topic of our author's pamphlet, namely, the present condition and future prospects of British Guiana. The produce of the colonies therein included, increased with extraordinary rapidity after they came under British rule, and reached its maximum in 1836, since which time it has decreased nearly 20 per cent. This decrease is ascribed by our author to the want of labourers, and the relaxation of industry consequent on the emancipation of the slaves. After insisting on the loss arising to the empire from a deficiency of produce, equal in value to a million and a half sterling, he proposes emigration to Guiana as a remedy. The banks of the Demerara and Essequibo are, he thinks, unjustly decried as unhealthy; their climate he deems more agreeable than that of Australia, as their soil is unquestionably more fertile than any hitherto discovered in that quarter of the globe; from which, indeed, he seems desirous to divert the tide of emigration. He asserts it to be erroneous to suppose that Europeans cannot perform field labour in tropical regions; and finally, in some doubt as to his being able to lure a sufficient number of white labourers into the sugar plantations, he begs for a new levy of hill Coolies from Bengal.

Now, in the first place, we see no great cause for alarm in the alleged decline of colonial pro-

duction, nor can we believe that it bodes a constant decay. A young colony, with an exuberantly prolific soil, necessarily increases its produce at a rate far outstripping the capability of foreign markets to receive it, and, consequently, it receives a check from time to time. In 1796, when the British took possession of Guiana, probably ten ships were sufficient for its annual commerce. In 1836, nearly four hundred vessels were employed in the trade of the same colonies. But it would be absurd to suppose that the next period of forty years could see another increase of forty-fold in the shipping. So far as the decreased production of Guiana is to be ascribed to the changed position of the negroes, it cannot be considered as permanent. Already, the increased price of sugar will allow the black labourer a higher rate of wages, which will win him back to his former habits. We doubt not, therefore, that the retrograde movement has already terminated, and that in a year or two the imports from Guiana will be seen to exceed their former maximum.

We shall abstain from discussing on the present occasion the difficult question of emigration; but we cannot avoid suggesting, that those who entertain any doubts respecting the efficacy of that celebrated nostrum for all political ills at home and abroad, are not likely to feel more than usual confidence in it at the present day, when it is puffed and vended by great companies evidently intent on gain, however closely they may disguise their motives. We must, however, remark, that our author entirely fails to prove the very important proposition, that field labour of every kind may be performed by Europeans in the equatorial regions. Neither is he very successful in vindicating the climate of Demerara from the suspicion of insalubrity. We are very far from supposing that there is any region of the earth which may not, under certain conditions, be safely inhabited by man; but, considering how man in general is fettered by habit and restricted as to means, the attainment of the required conditions must be inevitably very slow. It matters little whether we suppose that in the local atmospheres of Batavia, Sierra Leone, and Demerara, there is something inimical to human life, or that there are various noxious influences in those places, from which, though they be only contingent, it is yet morally impossible to escape.

Now, Mr. Schomburgk does not fairly controvert the fact of the great mortality of the colonies in Guiana. He exhibits, it is true, what appears to be a favourable comparison between the rates of mortality of that and of some European countries. But, in reality, the rates of mortality in Guiana exhibited by him, relate only to the coloured population; among the whites it is much greater; and when it is taken into account that a large proportion of the Europeans residing in such places as our colonies in Guiana, are adults of middle age, it will be at once apparent that a strict examination into the mortality of those colonies, would lead us still further from the conclusion to which our author is desirous of conducting us. Judging, therefore, from such facts as are before us, without any wish to condemn the theoretical principles towards which future generations may gradually approximate, we have no hesitation in expressing our belief, that labourers emigrating from this country to Guiana, would be going to a certain grave. There can be no doubt that free African labourers might be had in abundance by fair means; but, under present circumstances, it is not to be supposed that the British government would sanction such a proceeding as the transport of negroes on any conditions. If the hill-carriers, or Coolies, by migrating to Guiana, improve their own circumstances as well as the colony, it would be cruel to hinder them from

going thither. But there is an invaluable class of labourers whom our author and the authorities of Guiana have totally overlooked, and who might probably be induced with little trouble to transfer to our colonies their persevering habits and skilful industry: we mean the Chinese, who are crowding into every vacant space in the Indian archipelago. They have been already carried across the Atlantic, and five families were settled some years back in Trinidad. But neither there, nor in St. Helena, where the Chinese set the successful example of terrace cultivation along the heights, did they remain. In fact, the experiment of a Chinese colony is sure to fail if deficient in numbers. There must be a Chinese community, and then, like a swarm of bees, they cling together. Let 2,000 Chinese be carried to Guiana, and they will be sure to prosper. Having expressed our dissent from some of our author's speculative opinions, candour compels us to notify, that through our desire to glance at those, and at the same time to confine ourselves within narrow limits, we have passed in silence over much valuable information scattered through his pages, which will well repay the labour of perusal.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Hawkwood: a Romance of Italy, 3 vols.—If the clever author of 'Hawkwood' had but studied that first principle of his art, which ordains that the main object should never be lost sight of, however complicated be the maze of characters and incidents which interpose between the reader and the final development, few among his contemporaries would have had a better chance of a prize among historical romance writers. The feuds of the predominant Italian families and the crimes which rodden their chronicles—the feats of the gallant mercenaries who gained for English prowess a renown in a clime so different and so distant from their own—the luxury blent with mystery of Venetian life and manners, and the delicious scenery of that land, where every step calls up a sensation of the bliss of existence or a political remembrance of times past, are in turns in the work before us portrayed with a vividness of colour and a mastery of touch, very rarely to be found in the romances of these exhausted days; and, be he veteran or novice, assure us that we have a right to call upon the author of 'Hawkwood' for a very superior work of fiction. To unthread the labyrinths of his present complicated structure would serve no good purpose; the reader would be bewildered and not tempted; and the latter is our wish.

Amrim the Stranger; or the Spirit of Revenge, by Nafitniernehta Stultississima.—The office of the critic is a far more perilous one than the public, in whose service he adventures, at all suspects. The anathema under which he continually lies, takes every possible form of malediction. Here is an author, with a name almost as long as his poem, who puts the latter under the protection of 'The Winds,' in an address to those spirits, and hands us over conditionally to *Auster*,—who is requested to "deluge us with blasting showers," in the event of an honest exercise of our calling. In these self-seeking days, we can scarcely be expected to sacrifice ourselves; and shall therefore meddle with this 'Spirit of Revenge' little further than to say, that it is a poem in ten cantos, and many more measures, richly tessellated with italics, and covering thirty-four pamphlet pages. The incidents are very striking, and the conduct of the poem altogether original. There is a scene of "love at first sight," as sudden and impassioned as that which brought desolation into the families of the Montagues and Capulets, but worked with far more boldness than that famous love-passages of Shakespeare. Instead of waiting for the starry silence and the leafy solitude to breathe his vows, the much more demonstrative hero of the present poem, the instant his eye falls on its heroine in a very crowded ball-room, "sprung—and clasped her in his arms,"—and gathering still further energy from that energetic performance, forthwith jumps with her out of the window:—

"His powerful arm he twined around her waist,
One leap had cleared the casement!"—

a decisive mode of action with which the lady expresses her entire satisfaction, in unequivocal terms: "Can such exuberant bliss exist below?"

This specimen will probably induce our readers to refer to the poem itself; which, we should add, may be advantageously consulted for an improved vocabulary. "Rorifluent flowerets' hue"—"hiemal blossoms"—"the hebetude of grief"—"hyaline complexion"—are pleasant examples of the author's felicity in the selection of language. It is right to say, that the poet does not rely wholly on his threat; but consents likewise to put in a plea, deprecating the "censuring with eye too keen
The Author of—but just eighteen!"

Had he kept his own counsel, we should have taken him for a much younger man.

"Oh! how much younger art thou than thy years!"

On the whole, however, we are inclined to recommend him to his friends.

The Art of War: a Poem, in Ten Cantos.—[*L'Art de la Guerre, &c.*], by Lieutenant-General the Count Dupont.—Here is what, in the nineteenth century, must be considered as a literary curiosity,—a didactic poem, in ten cantos, and ten thousand lines, on the theory and practice of the art of slaughter! At any time, an elaborate essay in verse on such a subject would have been a remarkable labour. In the year 1840, the enthusiasm which produced it must be its own reward. "It has, from the earliest times," says the author, "been the business of poetry to animate the courage of man, and to celebrate his exploits; but, although it has worthily fulfilled that great mission, it has omitted to teach the art of battle. It is matter of surprise that its songs, which have been the legislators of nations, should not have been dedicated to an art which has at all times moulded their destinies." The Count Dupont has "fallen upon evil days" for his theory and his toil. The time has come when the destinies of nations must be shaped by far other arguments than the sword. This very day (May 11), we read with infinite pleasure the report of a speech made, in the Senate of the United States, by Mr. Adams, the representative of Massachusetts, on the Boundary Question. The State of Maine, it had been said, would not again submit the question to arbitration; to which Mr. Adams replied, that "it ought and would submit to it"—and he was gratified to find that such reference had been proposed by the President to the British Minister. "It was the most pacific and conciliatory course which could have been determined upon; for that reason he approved of it, and it would be approved by the whole of the civilized race of mankind. It came precisely to that point in reference to which so many petitions had been presented, and to which he wished the House had paid more attention—that was to say, a general principle, which, by force of public opinion, should compel all governments in the world to resort to this pacific mode of settling difficulties, rather than by a resort to war. The two nations—the British people and the people of the United States—he might say unanimously, for he scarcely believed that there was a man but who deprecated a war between the two nations—all deprecated a resort to war. The reference of the question to arbitrators was an honourable mode of proceeding; no nation could refuse to adopt such a course. The British government, he maintained, must compulsively, whether they would or not, accept the proposition; and if not compelled, they would do it from motives of policy,—and therefore he concluded there was no danger of a war." The Count's poem, nevertheless, (and indeed the more for that reason,) is a singular monument of perseverance,—treating of the subject in all its branches, from the earliest times to the present, clothing it with all its illustrations, and rendering it in versification remarkably smooth and easy. It is impossible not to feel great regret that its author should have had so much trouble—that toil so great, and ingenuity so conspicuous, should have been wasted in an atmosphere so ungenial, and on a field so barren.

Songs of Home; or Lays of Married Life—belong to the class of domestic poetry by their subject and their sentiments,—will read pleasantly enough by the fireside,—and are not likely to travel far beyond it.

The Literary World, Vol. II.—A well compiled and well illustrated miscellany.

Guide to Service: The Groom.—Might have been, and beneficially, much compressed.

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[ADVERTISEMENT.]—F. KENNEDY begs to announce that everything connected with the New Postage Rates will be found at 49, New Bond-street.—Envelopes, all sizes, 8d. per 100; Kennedy's Post-office Writing Papers, two sheets and an envelope, within a single postage; Letter Weighers from 1s.; Letter Paper, 3d. per quire, or 5s. per ream; Note Paper, 3d. per quire, or 3s. per ream; the most elegant assortment of Envelope Cases, from 5s. 6d. Name Plate elegantly engraved and 100 superfine cards printed for 5s. Blotting Books, Bibles, and Prayer Books, in plain and handsome bindings. Kennedy's fine Cumberland Lead Pencils, the best in London, 6d. each, or 4s. 6d. the dozen. To those who are ABOUT TO TRAVEL, he begs to offer his WRITING DESKS and DRESSING CASES. Also, Kennedy's Leather Writing Desk with Branch Lock, 15s. 6d.; Rosewood and Mahogany Dressing Cases, with silver fittings, from 10 to 15 guineas; Brush Cases, in Russia or Morocco, fitted with three of the best brushes, 17s. 6d.; also the Portable Dressing Case at 10s. 6d.; Mahogany Writing Desks from 8s.; Rosewood Work-boxes, from 4s. 6d. to 10 guineas; Despatch Boxes, in Russia or Morocco, Russia pocket-books, spring clasp, from 2s. 3d. The very best Cutlery, comprising scissors, penknives, razors, table cutlery; a large variety of Inkstands. Dressing-cases repaired and refitted.—F. Kennedy's Dressing-case Manufactory, 49, New Bond-street.

MEROPE.

One of the Pleiades. Her star is said to be dim among her sisters, because she married a mortal.

A gem hath fallen from the Crown of Heaven!

One of a glorious host is gone;

And, rayless now where once it shone,

My star is dim amid the Seven!

Your eyes unto the scorned earth turning

From your high ethereal throne,

The stars upon your foreheads burning,

Immortal sisters! ye are gazing down,

Your arrowy beams through the blue ether sending,

As if in radiant anger bending

O'er her path whose guilt ye mourn;

Whose only sin was thus to turn

Unto a world so sad and sweet,

Where human love and sorrow meet!—

Oh! spare the lightnings of your wrathful eyes!

In me alone was born and dies

The fault ye might not share:

Though I have burst my chain,

Remain,

And bear

On high your cold, but spiritual, lot;

Your place is there:

I murmur not

Though mine be blotted from the heavenly spheres.—

Your throne 'mid those bright orbs which trace

Their wanderings through immeasured space;—

Your far eternity which knows not years;

Your lofty joys—your ignorance of pain!

I gave them, and would give again,

For this dim World of Tears!

ELEANORA LOUISA MONTAGU.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

We were gratified the other day with a sight of an all but unknown and very fine figure of Religion, by Roubiliac. The statue is above the size of life, and stands in a graceful attitude, supporting with her left hand a large cross. There is more of repose in this figure than was usual with the artist, but the execution is even superior to the conception: the carving is indeed exquisite. The drapery, which may, however, be censured as too picturesque and too much cut up into lines, is admirably done, while the cross is so carefully wrought that it wears the appearance of wood. The marble is of the hardest kind, and Roubiliac, it may be observed, seems always to have sought for hardness before purity. This noble statue, exposed as it has been to the snows and rains of our climate, is now repairing with a tender hand in the studio of Sir Francis Chantrey, and is soon, we are sorry to hear, to leave this country, like many other fine things, for a foreign land. To turn to the sister art—we have been to Messrs. Leggett and Neville's, in Cornhill, to renew our acquaintance with a picture now on view there, of the Death-bed of Calvin, by Joseph Hornung, of Geneva, which many of our readers will recollect to have seen last year on the walls of the Royal Academy, where it was hung so far below the line, that Sir Jeffrey Hudson even must have taken to his knees to have seen it aright. This, we have heard, gave occasion to a letter, signed by several of our artists, not of the Academy, addressed to the painter, acknowledging the genius displayed in his picture, and regretting that the body to whom it had been intrusted for exhibition here, had so overlooked its great merits. The picture is painted in every part with care—the heads are faithfully and elaborately made out, and have a finish indeed almost marvellous. Everything is of the portrait kind, the Bible, the arm-chair, the table-cover, the books in the back-ground, and the portrait of Knox, are copies from the originals at Geneva, and are said to have belonged to Calvin. We are pleased to see that this fine picture is engraving by Mr. W. O. Geller, on a scale commensurate to its merits.

The sale of Sir Simon Clarke's pictures, which took place at the close of last week, produced about 29,000*l*. The pictures generally were of a high, though few of a first-rate order. The two Murillos fetched the highest prices. The 'Infant St. John'—in style closely resembling the 'Infant Christ,' in the National Gallery—went for 2,100*l*.; whilst its companion, 'The Good Shepherd,' to our eyes less desirable, brought 3,045*l*, from Baron Rothschild. The next highest price was 1,020*l*., given for a Vandervelde. The Flemish landscapes, indeed, seemed to us, after their kind, of greater value than the historical pictures. 955*l*. was given for a Cuyt: a tender little Karel du Jardin, a cabinet gem, brought 976*l*. 10*s*.—300*l*. more than Domenichino's 'Magdalen': a Rubens' 'Holy Family' for 954*l*. On the whole, the collection may be said to have sold well.

Mr. Wyatt has lately invited some of his influential friends to a private view of a colossal bust of the Duke of Wellington, intended for the great west-end Wellington Memorial. The head is modelled with care, and is of an antique cast, with the grand characteristics of the Roman face. The man and horse will be of large dimensions, more than twenty-two feet clear of the plinth.

The lovers of household luxuries, of manufactures, and floor-cloth magnificence, will do well to visit an exhibition which will shortly be opened at the Egyptian Hall, of the Royal Velvet Aubusson and Gobelin Tapestry Carpets. Nothing of their kind can exceed them in splendour of colour, and, except to those who have seen specimens in the mansions of the Sutherland and Hertford families, they are here comparatively little known. There was a time during the proudest days of our history, when even the rooms of our palaces were strewn with rushes, and the nobles of the land thought themselves fortunate in having their walls hung with tapestries of silk and wool; and our stage boasted of its curtain of Kidderminster. But now, the rich array and costly arras of our old walls are quitting their hangings to supply the place of rushes and of their successors from Kidderminster, Brussels, and Turkey. The excursive fancy of Sir Epicure Mammon never rejoiced in

such dreams as are here in sober reality provided for the feet of the luxurious and wealthy.

The anti-Academicians have once more raised their cry against the Academicians, for levying blackmail at their doors, and are becoming noisy, because their suggestion of free access has not as yet been acted on. The question in dispute is a very simple one with all persons who have neither passion nor prejudice to influence their judgment. It does appear to us, that there is no valid objection against opening the Academy to the public free of all charge on stated days in each week, or better, perhaps, for a month at the close of the season; but to maintain that the Academicians should forego their shillings altogether, is absurd. To the appropriation of the fund thus raised, objections may be made of more or less weight: but the fund itself is essential to the very existence of the Academy. The plan, however, of free admission has been tried, though the disputants do not appear to be aware of the fact. The first exhibition of the works of modern artists was in 1760, in the great room of the Society for the Encouragement of Arts. To this the public were admitted gratis; and all that was gained was a little notoriety, and a few sixpences from the sale of the Catalogues. This was not found to answer; and the Exhibition of the next year was in a room hired for the occasion in Spring Gardens, and the purchase of a shilling Catalogue by an individual or a party was the required means of admission. This did not succeed: all were not judges, admirers, or purchasers of art, and the spectators assembled in such numbers as to obstruct one another, till access became, as the artists themselves said, dangerous, and those whose appearance was most desired were frightened away. At the institution of the Academy, the members made the present charge for admission; and this was not, as is now known, objected to, before their twelfth exhibition, in 1780, when the Academicians thought themselves called upon to prefix to their Catalogue the following advertisement:—"As the present Exhibition is a part of the institution of an Academy supported by Royal munificence, the public may naturally expect the liberty of being admitted without any expense. The Academicians therefore think it necessary to declare, that this was very much their desire, but that they have not been able to suggest any other means than that of receiving money for admittance, to prevent the rooms from being filled by improper persons, to the entire exclusion of those for whom the Exhibition is apparently intended."

We learn, that among other travellers lately arrived in London, is Mr. Russeger, who went on account of the Pasha of Egypt to Fanzoglo, and to whom we are indebted for a barometrical observation on the remarkable depression of the Dead Sea, which he states at upwards of 1,300 feet below the Mediterranean. Mr. Isenberg, also from Shoa, has reached London, and brings a very favourable account of the prospects of the mission at Ankobar, to which place he journeyed in company with Mr. Krapf.

It is now, we believe, past doubt, that Mendelssohn has engaged to visit England in September, to take an active part in the Birmingham Festival. His new pianoforte trio, mentioned by a German correspondent last autumn, is now in London, and will be out in the course of a few days. So rare is music of such classical excellence, that it is only due to its composer thus particularly to call the attention of amateurs to its appearance. It is past doubt, too, that Drury Lane is about to be occupied by a Musard band, under the management of MM. Jullien and Elinson—some talk of an English Opera to be established there at a later period, by Mr. Rodwell, is also going its round. To the former speculation, in such a *locale*, we cannot wish well—neither can we believe that any amount of strenuous energy in management can bring aught but a transient success; the latter promises better, though any one meditating the resuscitation of English opera must be prepared not merely with principles more widely based, more thoroughly wrought out, but also with a purse deeper than has been owned by any former management.

London has hardly ever been so full of pianists as at this moment. MM. Herz, and Doehler, and Litolff, (the last having made amazing progress since he left England three years since) are among the strangers. M. A. Batta, the Belgian violoncellist, is also here again—and Madame Dorus-Gras shortly

to be looked for. We wish that with these good musicians we might reasonably anticipate some good new music!

A correspondent at Paris thus writes to us:—"The admirers of Madame Dudevant (George Sand) have been somewhat disappointed with her *début* as a dramatic writer. The whole *ban et arrière ban* of the Paris *feuilletonistes* assailed at the first representation of 'Cosimo,' which had been long and impatiently expected. The *parterre*, although crowded with the most determined band of *claqueurs* I ever saw, was ultimately awed into silence by the chilling attitude of the spectators. Yet 'Cosimo' is not without merit. It contains one or two highly dramatic scenes, which would have told well had it not been for the dissertations by which they were preceded and followed. Madame Dudevant has yet to learn the wide difference which exists between the *cabinet de lecture* and the stage. Those finely polished phrases which produce such powerful effect in the quiet of one's chamber are wholly ineffective at the theatre. It is action, action, action, which the stage requires, and not flowers of rhetoric or paradoxical essays." The scientific news still continues gloomy. To the list of those members of the Academy who have recently disappeared from its ranks in such rapid succession, we have now to add that of M. Turpin, whose name we find as taking a part in its proceedings up to almost the very latest of the meetings which immediately preceded his death. The Academy of Brussels has, likewise, lost three of its most distinguished members.—M. Raoux, Prof. Van Heusde, and M. Belpaire. To these announcements may be added that of the death, at Paris, (in which capital he had arrived a few months ago,) of M. Julien Desjardins, a zealous naturalist, and Secretary to the Society of Natural History at the Mauritius. While recording the havoc made by death in the learned associations, it is right that we should, from time to time, record the manner in which some of the vacancies are filled up. M. Leopold de Buch, of Berlin, has been elected by the Paris Academy one of the eight Foreign Associates, in the room of the lamented Blumenbach,—against a numerous list of candidates, which included the names of Brewster, Faraday, and Herschel;—and a commission of its members has been appointed for the purpose of proposing a list of candidates, to fill the similar vacancy created by the recent death of M. Olbers.

At a recent sitting of the Academy, M. Boucherie presented a memoir 'On the Preservation of Timber, by a method peculiar to himself.' That method consists in introducing pyrolignite of iron by absorption into the tissue of the wood, immediately after the fall of the tree, or even while it is yet standing. This simple operation is said to be remarkably efficacious: 1st, in protecting the tree against rot, dry or humid; 2nd, in increasing its hardness; 3rd, in developing and preserving its flexibility and elasticity; 4th, in preventing the cracks which result from variations of the atmosphere when brought into use; 5th, in reducing its inflammable and combustible characters, and 6th, in giving it colours and odours at once varied and enduring. M. Boucherie laid before the Academy several specimens prepared by this method, the examination of which was referred to a committee.

The anniversary dinner of the Literary Fund Society "came off," to use a sporting phrase, on Wednesday, much to the satisfaction of the friends of that excellent Institution. Sir Robert Inglis, as might have been anticipated, was well supported, and before the close of the Meeting, the Treasurer announced that the total amount of the donations and subscriptions received exceeded 600*l*. In the course of the evening Mr. Serjeant Talfourd, Mr. Lockhart, the Rev. Fraser Tytler, Sir H. Hallford, Dr. Mill, and others, distinguished either as literary men or as the friends and patrons of the Institution, severally addressed the meeting—and a printed address was circulated, giving a most interesting sketch of the early history of the Society. To this address we shall advert hereafter, when opportunity serves.

DIORAMA, REGENT'S PARK.

The Two Pictures now exhibiting represent the CORONATION OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA in Westminster Abbey, and the Interior of the CHURCH OF SANTA CROCE, at Florence, with all the effects of Light and Shade, from Noon till Midnight. Open from 10 till 5.

THE CORREGGIO MAGDALEN, perhaps the *chef-d'œuvre* of that divine master—the GRAND GALLERY PICTURE by REMBRANDT, representing Abraham about to offer up his Son Isaac—a noble scene, in the School of Raffaele—and a few other Pictures of a high class, are NOW ON VIEW and ON SALE, at No. 43, Pall Mall, near the British Institution.—Admission, 1s. Open from 10 till 5.

CATLIN'S NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN GALLERY EXHIBITION, EGYPTIAN HALL, PICCADILLY, containing 300 Portraits of the most wild and important Indians in North America, and 200 Paintings of Landscapes—Prairie Scenes—Indian Villages—Indian Dances—Buffalo Herds—Bear Plays—Tortures, &c. And an immense and varied Collection of Indian Curiosities—Dresses—Pipes—Tomahawks—War Clubs—Bows and Arrows—Scalping Knives, and Scapels, and a beautiful Wigwam, twenty-five feet high, brought from the base of the Rocky Mountains. Open from 10 to 6. Admission, 1s.

ADELAIDE-STREET and LOWTHER ARCADE, WEST STRAND, ROYAL GALLERY OF PRACTICAL SCIENCE.—M. Debrück's Patented Process of uniting Lead to other metals without Solder—Pottery made from Irish Clay—M. N. Reissner's daily unrivalled Performance on the Accordion—Various New Apparatus for illustrating Electrical, Optical, Acoustical, and other scientific principles, in a manner equally striking and amusing.—Models of Steam Engines in action—Steam Gun—Microscope—Chemical and other Lectures, &c. &c.—A READING ROOM for Scientific and other Periodicals and Journals, is now opened for Subscribers.—Admission to the Gallery, One Shilling; Annual Tickets to the Gallery, One Guinea; Annual Tickets to the Gallery and Reading Room, Two Guineas. Open from 10 till 6.

NEW STRAND THEATRE.—NECROMANCY, MAGIC, and IMPROVISATION.—Sixteenth Week of the GREAT WIZARD of the NORTH HOLDING HIS MYSTIC COURT.—Redoubled Success of the Great Wonder worker—his Temple is nightly crowded with Science, Literature, and Beauty—all must see the Mighty Wizard of Necromantic Fame, who performs such wonders, if only heard of, would never be believed in, and who see all are delighted; yet his mysteries are incomprehensible to all. The initiate at his command is animate. All nature seems to be at variance with the Wizard on MONDAY, and every evening during the week, the Great Wizard will perform his Thousand Incomprehensible Delusions; and Mr. CHARLES SLOMAN, the only English Improvisator, will nightly POETISE EXTEMPORANEOUSLY.

N.B.—H. A. begs to state that he has refused the offer made to him by the Emperor of the Celestial Empire—never will he turn traitor to his country.

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

May 11.—G. B. Greenough, Esq., President, in the chair.—Extracts from the following letters and papers were read:—

1. From Prof. Baer, at St. Petersburg, communicating the degree of cold experienced in the steppes by the Russian expedition to Khiva, whence it appears that in lat. 46° the mean temperatures were as follows:—

December . . .	−17.6 Réaumur.
January . . .	−24.
February . . .	−16.3

Mean of three months −16° Réaumur, or −4° of Fahr.; it was, therefore, a winter far more rigorous than that of the interior of Lapland: yet notwithstanding this excessive cold, the Cossacks of Orenburg suffered no inconvenience, and amused themselves with singing in the midst of the dreadful storms of the steppe, and with the thermometer at −4° of Fahrenheit.

2. From Governor Gawler, dated Adelaide, South Australia, forwarding a map of Mr. Eyre's route from Port Lincoln to Strenky Bay, &c.—“The papers sent from time to time (says Col. Gawler), will show that we are rapidly going on with discovery, and the new land found to the eastward fully compensates for the barren ground to the W. and N.W. I long to push to the north by Lake Torrens and the Flinders' range; we want but money to go to Port Essington, on the north coast; with 1,000*l.* at command, I would be answerable to have a party overland at that place, under God's good providence, in less than nine months. There are here three men, either of whom would do it with sufficient encouragement. They are intelligent, determined fellows, and well acquainted with the country and its peculiarities. There is nothing to fear from the natives, except when beef and mutton are the temptations: from what I have seen and heard of them, I think that six armed men might safely travel in any direction in South Australia, and that, generally, two would be sufficient. The natives are good tempered, intelligent, and not very daring; but from vagrant habits most unamiable.”

3. Journey from Angora, by Kaisariyah, Malatiyah, and Gergen Kalah-si to Bir, or Birehjik, by W. Ainsworth, Esq.—After a stay of three months in Angora, in Asia Minor, during which an excursion was made to the mines of Ishik Tâgh, about forty miles to the northward of the city, and lying 4,560 feet above the sea, the expedition, consisting of Mr. Rassam, Mr. Russell, and myself, quitted Angora, and travelled to the eastward, to explore the Kurdish districts of Hâimânâh. In the course of this journey we passed through Istânos to Mislû, near the mouth of the Sakâriyah, a distance of about forty-five miles;

thence turned S.E. for fifty miles, to Kizil-jah Kalah; again E.N.E. for fifty miles, to the galena mines of Denek Maden, which lie 3,340 feet above the sea. From this point we turned nearly S. for seventy miles, through Uch Ayak and Kir-Shehr to Neû-Shehr: again N.W. for eighty miles, rounding the northern end of the great salt lake of Tuz Chuli, and, continuing along its western shore, a general S.E. course of eighty miles, brought us to Ak Serai. From this point we travelled by Kaisariyah, Gurun, Derendah, and the little known valley of the Tokmah Sû to Malatiyah, a further distance of 200 miles; thence in a southerly direction, passing by Besni, Gergen Kalah-si, and Sameisat, by the Nushan Pass through Mount Taurus to Bir, or Birehjik, on the Euphrates; completing a journey of upwards of 1,000 miles, chiefly through a country very imperfectly laid down on all existing maps. The town of Istânos contains about 400 houses, 50 of Mohammedans and 350 of Armenians; it occupies the right bank of the river, and, confined by the cliff, forms a long narrow street, which is well stoned up, like a quay, and adds to the general appearance of comfort and cleanliness. A remarkable rock, almost insulated from the cliff, advances over the lower part of the town. It is crowned by ruins of former times, covered with storks' nests, and burrowed by cavernous passages. A pile of stones, which is said also to mark the site of a castle, occupies the summit of the mountains at the opposite side of the entrance of the valley of Kir-Shehr. At four or five miles down this valley is the village of Kizil-jah Kôî, where the beautiful and renowned gardens of the once flourishing town of Kir-Shehr commence, and extend not only to the town itself, a distance of five miles, but also far beyond, much exceeding all published reports. Kir-Shehr is a sad example of a town ruined by religious fanaticism. It never was very populous or rich, but, with gardens of unbounded fertility, possessed most of the necessaries, and many of the luxuries of life. These tranquil comforts brought around it, however, dervishes of many orders, to whom religious zeal bequeathed various edifices, which, like villages, are, to the number of seven, distributed round the town—the resources of which they have drained and exhausted to the very last: what houses still remain are mud hovels of the lowest description; the only jûmî is ruinous, and its minaret broken in half: three khâns are abandoned; the bezeistân, which is a goodly building, is untenanted. There are six mesjids; and the population is stated to be from 3,500 to 4,000. There is only one Christian resident, who is employed in the manufacture of gunpowder. Kir-Shehr lies 3,100 feet above the sea. Neû-Shehr is a pleasing and cleanly town, situated at the side of a bold ravine, and itself rather darkly backed by high cliffs of volcanic rock. The Greeks, who form a considerable portion of the community here, appear to have congregated into the “new city;” for all the numerous and various troglodyte villages in the neighbourhood are now, for the most part, abandoned by their original occupants. Neû-Shehr contains 2,000 houses of Mohammedans, 800 houses of Greeks, 60 houses of Armenians, 2 large jûmî's, 1 Greek church, 9 khâns, 1 bath, 6 Mohammedan schools, and a quadrangular castle, with round towers at the angles. In a commercial point of view, it is, when compared with other towns of the interior of Asia Minor, a very flourishing place. Up the ravine, is the small village of Gôrah; and downwards, at a short distance, the picturesque troglodyte village of Nâr, or the pomegranate. Neû-Shehr is in latitude 38° 37', and at a mean elevation of 3,940 feet. The view of the Great Salt Lake of Kôch Hissâr, from the entrance of the pass, is very beautiful, but it wants wood. Narrow at the north, where it is backed by low hills, it subsequently expands almost beyond the reach of the eye; is next lost behind the hills of Injeh Bûrnû, a small cape to the S.W., and then reappears to the south as a wide and distant expanse of water, backed by lofty summits, which are, however, in reality at a great distance beyond the extremity of the lake. In the sheltered and sunny exposure of Kôch Hissâr, many flowering plants welcomed us at once to spring. The castle, from whence this place derives its name, signifying “Ram Castle,” occupies the top of a hill, which is nearly isolated from the remainder of the range, and commands, according to ancient ideas, the town and the

entrance to the pass of Kâzi-ûyuk. The foundations of this castle are now difficult to trace. The loose stones are piled up into so many sheep and goat folds, whence its modern name. The present village or Kasabah contains 130 houses, but no resident Christians. Here are salt-petre works. A mer. obs. gave its latitude in 38° 55' 50" N.; approx. elev. 2,856 feet. We bent our steps along the northern side of the lake, then by its western shores. Its eastern banks are tenanted by pastoral Turkomans of quiet habits, but the western side is inhabited by Kurds, who are constantly giving trouble to the government by their predatory habits. We met with some difficulty on approaching the lake from the N.W.; but once on its banks, we were resolute in following the yet unexplored western line, in doing which we approached near to the southern declivities of Karâjah Tâgh, the northern front of which we had also visited in our excursion through Hâimânâh. The lake, which is almost dried up in summer, was nearly at its greatest extent at the period of our visit, and consequently well adapted for an exploratory reconnaissance. To the N., N.E., and N.W., where it receives no large tributaries, it is entirely dry in summer, and its limits are well defined by the absence of vegetation, and the coating of salt and mud; but in its south-western and southern limits, where it receives several large streams of fresh water, the plain being very level, far beyond the limits of the lake, the tributary waters spread themselves out, and convert the whole land into extensive marshes; so that, between marsh in winter, and salt desert in summer, it is difficult to find out what may be considered as the southern boundary. But as the line of our route extended to pretty nearly the point where all the southerly rivers, except the Beyâz Sû, spread out into marshes, and that line is again connected with Kôch-Hissâr, by the labours of Mr. W. I. Hamilton, as good an idea of the real extent of a lake constantly varying in the details of its form, may be obtained, as if its exact limits to the south had been astronomically fixed. A series of barometrical observations gave for the mean height of the lake above the sea, 2,500 feet. The lake contains no fish, nor molluscs or conchiferous animals; its waters and its banks are therefore frequented by few aquatic birds. Although constantly on the look-out, we cannot say that we ever saw one bird on its bosom, though the story of birds not being able to dip their wings in the water, is evidently fabulous. The state of its saturation is, however, very great, for salt is collected at almost all seasons from the bottom of the lake, and washed in its water without any sensible loss by the process. Ak-Serai contains 800 Mohammedan and 10 Armenian houses. It derives its chief interest from its numerous Saracenic remains, some of which are of great beauty. It was evidently a considerable town, and a place of opulence under the Arabs, probably at the time when so much care was bestowed upon the great road passing by Sultân Khân. The noble mountain of Arjish, the ancient Argeus, is now clearly proved to be the loftiest peak in Asia Minor. Almost perpetually involved in clouds, during our stay at Kaisariyah, we had only an occasional glance of its extreme summit: and the season of the year in which the snow line descends to within a few hundred feet of the plain, put all attempts at an ascent out of the question. The structure of this fine mountain, which, like Hasan Tâgh, is principally of volcanic origin, and belongs to a comparatively modern epoch of activity, will be best described by Mr. Hamilton; but the whole, in a general point of view, presents an interesting accumulation of conical, rounded, and saddle-backed hills, chiefly composed of grey friable lavas, with a basaltic base. The manner in which these various formations are dispersed about the declivities, is rather remarkable, and always very distinct. The summit of Arjish appears to be about 10 miles from its average base, considering it for the moment to be isolated on every side, which it is not to the S.E. This would give a mean area for the whole mountain of 300 miles, and a circumference of 60. Its elevation, as determined by Mr. Hamilton, is 13,100 feet. The report that both the Euxine and the Mediterranean may be described from its summit, given by Strabo (p. 538), must be received with caution, since its distance from the Euxine is 170 British miles, and from the Mediterranean 110 geographical miles,

with ridges of high mountains between both. There is also a tradition that the Romans had a castle on its summit, where Tiberius Cesar used to sit, which is not deserving of attention, except as probably connected with the adjacent summits of 'Ali Tagh or U'lanli.

A great deal of misrepresentation has appeared concerning the summer and winter towns of Malat'iyah. Malat'iyah itself is a small town of about 200 houses, situated upon a plain, and watered by a rivulet which is a tributary to the Tokhmah Sû, but from which it is at a distance to the S. of at least five miles. There is little or no wood near the town, which is consequently exposed to all the violence of the sun's rays in summer. There are remains of the old walls of Melitene and of its gateways, as well as of a castellated building; but all are in a very ruinous condition. Formerly, the inhabitants of Malat'iyah used to reside there in winter, and retire to the gardens of Aspûzi in summer; but Hâfiz Pâshâ, having made it his head-quarters, has for many years past occupied the town almost entirely, and the inhabitants have been obliged to remain in Aspûzi, where, in consequence, a bazar has sprung up, and all the comforts and conveniences of a town are to be found, while Malat'iyah has sunk into a total state of ruin and wretchedness, although even in Hâfiz Pâshâ's absence, it is still the seat of a Kâim-makâm, or deputy. Malat'iyah has been spoken of by geographers as being in a very cold situation; and at an elevation of 2,780 feet. Although not so high as the central plateau of Asia Minor, still the temperature in winter must be low. The constant temperature during our stay of a large and abundant source issuing from limestone rocks, was 55°, probably about the term of the mean annual temperature. It was not, however, on account of the cold that the inhabitants left their summer dwellings, but on account of the heat that they quitted their winter ones. There is scarcely a difference in elevation of 200 feet between Aspûzi and Malat'iyah, but the former extending over six or eight miles of territory at the foot of the Beg Tagh, is subjected to a refined system of irrigation, which appears to have belonged to a remote antiquity, and which has converted what would otherwise have been a barren plain, into verdant and shady gardens. The Turkish inhabitants of Malat'iyah are proverbially luxurious, particularly affect very gaudy-coloured clothes, and as the old governor of Arkâ said to us, "Having little money, and still less care, they fill their pipes, and sit by the fountain's side." Hâfiz Pâshâ had also so little gallantry as to say that the ladies of Malat'iyah lie under the mulberry trees to let the fruit fall into their mouths. Malat'iyah and Aspûzi are both very unhealthy in autumn, when fevers often assume an alarming type. Out of a brigade of 3,000 troops, as many as 400 were lost in a single autumn. The force of radiation at Aspûzi was 11°. During our stay here, we made excursions to the N.W. to the junction of the Shakhmah Sû and the Tokhmah Sû, to the bridge of the latter, and to its junction with the Euphrates, the details of which are laid down in our map.

This paper was illustrated by a map of the route on a large scale, and by two sections of Asia Minor, drawn by Mr. Russell, from barometrical measurements, and tinted to express the great geological features: one a longitudinal section from Constantinople, in an E.S.E. direction, to the Euphrates at Bîr; the other, latitudinal, from Samsûn, on the Black Sea, to Iskanderûn, on the Mediterranean, a distance of 270 miles in a nearly north and south line.

The Chairman announced that the Anniversary Meeting of the Society would be held on Monday the 25th inst., when the gold medals, awarded by the Council, would be presented, and the President would deliver his annual address.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

May 1.—The Anniversary Meeting, for the election of officers for the ensuing year, and for receiving the Report of the Auditors, took place this day, J. R. Gowen, Esq., in the chair.—The Report was read by W. H. Pepys, Esq., by which it appeared, that the actual receipts for the past year amounted to 6,560l. 17s. 10d., and the expenditure (exclusive of 2,236l. 2s. 2d., paid on account of the new conservatory) to 4,999l. 10s. 10d., showing a surplus of income over

expenditure of 1,561l. 7s. The Auditors stated, they had much pleasure to observe, that the cash receipts for the past year exceeded those of the previous year by 839l. 7s. 6d. They had also to congratulate the Society on the still further reduction of the bonded debt which had taken place in the past year to the amount of 700l.—the bonded debt of the Society now being 9,150l., and that on open accounts 3,754l. 10s., making together 12,904l. 10s.; to meet which, there was due to the Society 6,509l. 9s. 10d., exclusive of the annual subscriptions due on the 1st of May. At the same time, the property of the Society was much increased in value, by the erection of the splendid conservatory at the garden.

Dr. Lindley read a very voluminous Report, prepared by order of the Council, on the present state and management of the Society, with a review of the progress the Society had made from the year 1830, when the new arrangements (under which the affairs of the Society are conducted) were first established, and with the happiest results, as was proved by the gradual diminution of the Society's debts, and the increasing value of the garden, not only as regarded mere property, but the impulse it gave to Horticulture generally, in the magnitude of its distributions of rare and valuable roots and seeds, collected in different quarters of the globe, and the establishment of an extensive foreign correspondence, (there being on the books of the Society not less than 217 Foreign Corresponding Members), and also the encouragement it gave to merit in the distribution of prizes and rewards for the cultivation of ornamental and useful garden shrubs and plants, and the investigation of new processes in horticulture, never omitting to reward the skill by which any improved variety or successful mode of culture might be produced. The number of gold and silver medals awarded during the last ten years amounted altogether to upwards of 1,400, and the total cost to 3,319l. 12s. Neither were opportunities of improving the garden neglected, as was shown by the erection of the wing of the new conservatory, at an expense of 4,000l. (the greater part of which, as stated in the Report, has been paid).—Both Reports were unanimously adopted; and the meeting then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, when his Grace the Duke of Devonshire was re-elected President, T. Edgar, Esq., Treasurer, and G. Bentham, Esq., Secretary; and E. Foster, Esq., J. Rogers, jun. Esq., and W. H. F. Talbot, Esq., were elected into the Council, in the room of Sir O. Mosley, Bart., E. Barnard, Esq., and H. Bevan, Esq., retiring.

May 5.—Dr. Henderson, V.P., in the chair.

The display of plants was exceedingly fine and numerous, including some very rare and beautiful new ones, the most remarkable of which were two splendid hybrid Rhododendrons, the flowers of a delicate buff and purple colour, and very beautiful foliage, exhibited by Mr. Smith, of Norbiton: there was also a very fine plant of *Chorozena Henchmanii*, exhibited by Mr. Croucher, gardener to the Duke of Sutherland—from W. Wells, Esq., a new plant, recently introduced from Madeira, named *Orchis foliosa*, and *Azalea Indica rubra*—from Mr. Thomas Smith, gardener to C. Mills, Esq., of Hillingdon, *Echium candicans*, a rather curious plant, the flowers of a beautiful bright blue colour—from Mrs. Lawrence, a very numerous and splendid collection of plants—from Sir P. G. Egerton, Bart., *Cattleya Mossii*, and a hybrid creeping Cereus, with very fine large flowers—from Messrs. Low, of Clapton, *Dillwynia rudis*, and *Conospermum taxifolium*, from New Holland—from Mr. Russell, of Battersea, two seedling Rhododendrons—from J. Allnutt, Esq., of Clapham, a very fine collection of heaths, azaleas, &c.—from Messrs. Brown, of Slough, a hybrid Rhododendron—from Mrs. Randolph, a collection of twenty varieties of flowers, executed in feathers—from Mr. Dean, gardener to J. Bateman, Esq., *Dendrobium densiflorum*, *D. calceolaria*, and *Brassia maculata*—from Mr. Pinder, of Croydon, a collection of twenty-four new varieties of tulips—from Sir T. Dyke Acland, flowers of Camellias, cut from a plant on which were upwards of two hundred blossoms, and which has been planted in the open ground for eighteen years—from Mr. Vane, gardener to O. F. Meyrick, Esq., a dish of very fine May Duke cherries (forced), &c. &c.

The following prizes were awarded:—The large silver medal to Mr. Smith, for the Hybrid Rhodo-

dendrons—the silver Knightian medal to J. Allnutt, Esq., for the collection of plants—the silver Banksian medal to W. Wells, Esq., for *Orchis foliosa*, to Mr. Croucher, for *Chorozena Henchmanii*, to Mrs. Lawrence, for *Dillwynia clavata*, to Mr. Thomas Smith, for *Echium candicans*, and to Mr. Vane, for the May Duke Cherries.

Dr. Lindley read the concluding part of Mr. Rogers's paper, 'On Heating by Hot Water;' and also a paper 'On the Cultivation and Management of the Cactus Tribe,' by Mr. D. Beaton.

Lady Grenville, J. R. Reeves, Esq., W. S. Gillett, Esq., W. Scholey, Esq., T. Clarke, Esq., Mr. T. Jackson, and Mr. G. Cunningham, were elected Fellows.

The following shows the highest and lowest states of the barometer and thermometer, and the amount of rain, as observed in the garden of the Society, between the 21st of April and the 5th of May, 1840:—

April 26, Barometer, highest	30.368
May 5, " lowest	29.924
April 23, Thermometer, highest	81° Fah.
" lowest	39° "
Total amount of Rain 0.00 inch.	

BOTANIC SOCIETY.—May 12.—F. J. Farre, M.D., in the chair.—Mrs. Hudson Gurney, Sir Thomas Baring, Bart., John Labouchere, Esq., Sir James Clarke, Bart., and thirty other ladies and gentlemen, were elected Fellows of the Society; and Mrs. Trotter, Mrs. Leake, Mrs. B. Bond, and Miss Parry, were elected Members.—A paper was then read by Dr. Sigmund, 'On the Progressive History of Botany.'

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—April 6.—The Rev. F. W. Hope, F.R.S., President, in the chair.—Numerous donations were announced, including a splendid collection of insects, chiefly from the Neigherries, presented by Mr. Robertson. Professor Owen exhibited a dipterous larva from the urinary discharge of a patient, and which had lived two days after its exclusion: another was discharged after an interval of five weeks. He considered it exceedingly difficult to account for the presence of such an insect in this situation, as it was next to impossible that it could have passed from the intestinal canal. The larva was of a species distinct from that described by the Rev. L. Jenyns in the Transactions of the Society under the name of *Anthomyia canicularis*, being destitute of the remarkable filamentous processes observed in that species. Mr. Westwood exhibited a considerable number of insect monstrosities, including a specimen of the tortoiseshell butterfly, with five wings, from the collection of Mr. Stevens, an *Aspilates gilbaria*, with the two wings on one side confluent, a *Prionus* with eight tarsi, &c. This exhibition led to various remarks on the physiological peculiarities of the insects exhibited. Mr. W. W. Saunders exhibited the nest of a hymenopterous insect, made of mud, which is built in the corners of rooms of houses in Albania, sent home by Mr. S. S. Saunders. An American species of the same genus (*Peloporus*) was stated by Mr. Shuckard to be well known in America under the name of the Mud-dab. Mr. Saunders was therefore led to doubt the correctness of the observation which he had made in India as to the parasitic nature of these insects. Mr. Newport mentioned the case of an *Oestrus* which had been obtained from the frontal sinus of a female patient.

May 4.—The Rev. F. W. Hope, President, in the chair.—Mr. Yarrell exhibited specimens of the larvæ of *Tipula olaracca*, which are at the present time destroying the grass in Golden Square, and Mr. Hope stated that lime water and the water from gasometers was efficacious in destroying them. Mr. Newport exhibited a species of *Geophilus* which had been voided from the stomach of one of his patients; likewise a specimen of the pupa of the privet hawk moth which was destitute of a tongue case, Mr. Newport having repeatedly disturbed it whilst undergoing its change. Mr. Hope exhibited a new species of Walking Leaf insect from the Neigherries. Mr. Shuckard read some extracts from a monograph 'On the Dorylidae,' now in course of publication, and Mr. Westwood some notes on the peculiarities of African entomology, which led to an extended discussion, in which Messrs. Hope and Waterhouse stated their views on this branch of the science.

ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY.

Feb. 24.—Sir W. R. Hamilton, L.L.D., President, in the chair.

J. Huband Smith, Esq. read a paper "On the different kinds of Querns used by the Irish." Having lately presented to the Academy, as a contribution to their collection of Irish Antiquities, an oblong quern, or corn-mill, of the most primitive form, Mr. Smith now offered some few remarks on this very ancient article of housewifery. The circular or rotatory quern, the parent of the modern mill-stones, is well-known to antiquarians; but the still earlier and ruder hand-mill of an oblong form, (and which, therefore, must have been used in a very slow and laborious process, by pushing the upper stone backwards and forwards upon the under,) does not appear to have been hitherto noticed, being, in fact, very rarely met with; while the round quern is of comparatively common occurrence. The word "quern" comes directly from the Saxon or Teutonic name, with which it is identical. Another simple and domestic machine, the churn, derives its appellation doubtless from the same root; the office of both being to *separate*.—In the one instance, the meal from the husk, and in the other, the butter from the milk. It seems more than probable that the Latin verb "cerno," whose primary meaning is to *separate* or *divide*, took its rise from the operation of these very primitive implements of domestic economy. The approximation in sound will be apparent, if we pronounce the Latin letter *c* hard, as some scholars maintain we should do. In the Celtic language the quern is denominated "Bré," and in the Welsh or British, "Breyan;" both words having the same origin as the old French verb "Broyer," from which we derive a verb not in very general use, but yet to be found in a work of standard authority, the English translation of the Scriptures, where, as it will be observed, it is met in conjunction with the operation of reducing corn to meal: "Though thou shouldst bray a fool in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, yet will not his foolishness depart from him." One very ancient form of quern approaches nearly to the modern mortar, the under stone being a basin supported upon a tripod. The quern is also called in Irish *clach-vron*, a term which occurs in the well-known Glossary of Cormac Mac Cuilleann, and has been translated to signify "the stone of sorrow," having allusion to the laborious and servile occupation which in ancient times grinding with it was generally esteemed to be. That such, however, was not always the case, appears from an anecdote quoted by Mr. Smith from Professor Tennant, respecting Pittacus, king of Mitylene, one of the seven wise men of Greece, who it seems "had been accustomed in moments of unoccupied languor to resort for amusement to the grinding mill, that being, as he called it, his best gymnasium, or pleasantest exercise in smallest space." The memory of this fact is preserved in a song of the Grecian women, called the song of the mill, which began, "Grind mill, grind! even Pittacus, king of Mitylene, doth grind!" In illustration of the use of the quern at an early period, Mr. Smith cited a notice of it from an ancient Irish poem, (extracted from the Memoir of Londonderry accompanying the Ordnance Survey,) by Cuain O'Lochain, who died, according to the Annals of Tighernach, in 1024; also an interesting Scandinavian legendary ballad, called the Quern song. That Shakspeare was acquainted with it, appears from the allusion in his "Midsummer Night's Dream," where he speaks of the fairy Puck as labouring in the quern. Mr. Smith then briefly noticed a few of the many passages in Scripture referring to the hand-mill, some of which show it to have been common to the Egyptians and Philistines as well as the Jews. As to its use in modern times in Cyprus, Palestine, Hindostan, and generally throughout the East, he read passages from Shaw's and Clarke's Travels, and from the Journal of Mrs. Farrar, the wife of a missionary at Nassuek, near Bombay. He also noticed an engraving in Davis's China, representing a man working a large mill by means of a sort of handspike which he pushes backwards. Mr. Smith then read an extract from Pennant's Tour to the Hebrides, referring to the enactment in the reign of Alexander III. of Scotland, (A.D. 1284,) prohibiting the use of the quern except during stress of weather, or in other cases of necessity: notwithstanding which, Pennant still found it there in 1772. In

Sir Walter Scott's visit to the Orkneys in 1814, he saw the quern in the house of an old woman who, practising the trade of a witch, subsisted by "selling winds" to the seamen of the neighbouring coast. And in the Shetland islands he noticed the rude adaptation of the quern stones to the purposes of a water-mill. From a curious book, entitled "The Montgomery Manuscripts," written about 1648, Mr. Smith quoted a description of a similar attempt in the Barony of Ardes, County of Down, in Ireland, to convert a hand-mill into one driven by water, in which "the axle stood upright, and the small stone, or querns, such as are turned with hands, on the top thereof. The water-wheel was fixed at the lower end of the axletree, and did run horizontally among the water, a small force driving it." In conclusion, Mr. Smith pointed out the progressive improvement in the form of the quern,—from the pair of rude oblong stones, which ground the corn by simple trituration, to the rotatory mortar-shaped quern; thence to the rounded or rather hemispherical form; and concluding with the two flattened stones, similar to those used in the water-mills of the present day.

Justification of Mrs. Somerville's Experiments upon the Magnetizing Power of the more refrangible Solar Rays, by G. J. Knox, Esq., and the Rev. T. Knox.—Prof. Morichini, of Rome, was the first to observe that steel, when exposed to the violet rays of the solar spectrum, becomes magnetic. Similar experiments were tried by Mr. Christie in 1824; but the most accurate experiments upon this subject have been performed by Mrs. Somerville, in 1825, who determined that not only violet, but indigo, blue and green, develop magnetism in the exposed end of a needle, while yellow, orange, and red, produce no sensible effect. As many philosophers have failed in repeating these experiments, we were induced, in the course of the summer, to undertake the investigation of this subject, "which has so often disturbed science." Having procured several hundred needles, of different lengths and thicknesses, and having ascertained that they were perfectly free from magnetism, we enveloped them in white paper, leaving one of their extreme ends uncovered. Taking advantage of a favourable day for trying experiments upon the chemical ray, (known by the few seconds required to blacken chloride of silver,) we placed the needles at right angles to the magnetic meridian, and exposed them for two hours, from eleven to one, to the differently refrangible rays of the sun, under coloured glasses. Those beneath the red, orange, and yellow, showed no trace of magnetism, while those beneath the blue, green, and violet, exhibited, the two first feeble, but the last strong traces of magnetism. To determine how far the oxidating power of the violet ray is concerned in the phenomena, we exposed to the different coloured lights needles whose extremities had been previously dipped in nitric acid, and found that they became magnetic (the exposed end having been made a north pole) in a much shorter time than the others, and that this effect was produced in a slight degree, under the red (when exposed a sufficient length of time), strongly under white glass, and so strong under violet glass, that the effect took place even when the needles were placed in such a position along the magnetic meridian, as would tend to produce, by the earth's influence, a south pole in the exposed extremity. Conceiving that the inactive state produced in iron (as observed by Schenbein) when plunged into nitric acid, *s.g.* 1.36, or by being made the positive pole of a battery, or by any other means, might throw some light upon the nature of the electrical change produced, experiments were instituted to this effect, which showed that no trace of magnetism could be thereby produced.

CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.—The first meeting of this Society was held on Thursday, the 7th inst., at the Lodge of St. John's College, the Rev. Ralph Tatham, D.D., Master of St. John's, and Vice Chancellor of the University, President, in the chair.—Mr. Deck exhibited to the Society some Roman remains, found in the neighbourhood of Cambridge. The following communications were read:—1. A list of MSS. relating to Cambridgeshire, and the Measurement of part of Ely Cathedral, in the thirteenth century, by Sir Thomas Phillips, Bart., M.A., F.R.S.—2. A Catalogue of Books given to

Catharine Hall by the Founder, by the Rev. Prof. Corrie, B.D.—3. The Statutes of King's College, in Latin, with an English translation, by James Heywood, Esq., F.R.S.—4. A copy of an abbreviated Chronicle from A.D. 1377 to A.D. 1469, containing some notices of University proceedings, by the Rev. J. J. Smith, Fellow and Tutor of Caius College, and Treasurer to the Society.—5. A Legendary Account of the Foundation of the Town of Cambridge, from a MS. in Lambeth Palace, and a curious Poem on Drunkenness, by Henry Rogers, of King's College, from a MS. in the Library of the Royal Society, by J. O. Halliwell, Esq., F.R.S., Secretary to the Society.

Presentations were announced from Sir Henry Dryden, Bart., Sir Thomas Phillips, Bart., the Newcastle Antiquarian Society, the Rev. J. J. Smith, and others. Several new members were proposed, and M. Guizot and Prof. Von Huber were proposed as Honorary Members.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

MON.	Statistical Society	Eight, P.M.
	Society of British Architects	Eight.
	Horticultural Society	Three.
TUES.	Architectural Society	Eight.
	Institute of Civil Engineers	Eight.
WED.	Society of Arts	p. Seven.
	Royal Society	p. Eight.
THUR.	Society of Antiquaries	Eight.
FRI.	Royal Institution	p. Eight.

FINE ARTS

ROYAL ACADEMY.

SPLENDOR of colour, once Mr. Turner's chief excellence, is the rock upon which his fame will be wrecked. His first picture (27), *Bacchus and Ariadne*, though little better than a palette, set with the appetizing yellow and brown of an omelette, is tame in its hues, exquisite in its drawing, and prosaic as to composition, when compared with other works,—for instance, No. 203, *Slavers throwing overboard the dead and dying,—a passionate extravagance of marigold sky, and pomegranate-coloured sea, and fish dressed as gay as garden flowers in pink and green, with one shapeless dusky-brown leg thrown up from this parti-coloured chaos to keep the promise of the title. The fragrance of this, again, is out-Turnered by No. 243, *The New Moon*.—No. 419, *Rockets and Blue-lights (close at hand) to warn Steamboats off Shoal Water*,—and No. 461, *Neapolitan Fisher Girls surprised Bathing by Moonlight*. The titles of the last two pictures, indeed, it is necessary to transcribe, lest any, led by the numbers, should in their innocence imagine that we had been passing off upon them the spoiled canvases upon which a painter had been trying the primitive colours. The most phrenetic enthusiasm cannot sympathize in such outrages against probability, sense, and beauty. With what a double pleasure, after lamenting Mr. Turner's downward course, do we turn to Mr. Stanfield's landscapes: no want of effect there,—none of colour—none of that delicate and poetical spirit, which adds something of the ideal to the familiar loveliness of nature,—and yet how simple, how unforced, how true they are! The excellencies of No. 13, *Citara, in the Gulf of Salerno*, are hardly approachable by any contemporary artist. A refined taste in the picturesque has chosen the point of view: observe with what an apparently artless, but harmonious ordinance, the white tower of the strong, quaintly machicolated fortress rounds itself off against the transparent Italian sky,—how tempting to the fancy is the narrow blue distance, disclosed through the arch of the bridge which links the fortalice to the main rock! The coast is steep, bold, and barren; yet, apart from the laughing sunshine of the atmosphere, a reflection of which gives a life and sparkle to the waters, the air of desolate sterility is removed by the southern dwellings nestling at the feet of the cliff; from the cool porches and gaily-screened verandahs of which streams out a population, whom neither riches nor poverty,—the priests' spiritual cares, nor the fisherman's toils,—can disturb in the *dolce far niente* which makes up their existence. Nor is one hair's breadth of the foreground,—that stumbling-block to so-called free-handed painters,—neglected; a few fragments of frieze and cornice,—a boat or so drawn up beyond the influence of the long swell, which so musically and so coolly*

breaks upon the beach, are combined in a confusion pleasing and effective, and do their part in animating the canvas without crowding it. There is much for the mind as well as for the eye in landscapes such as these. Other excellent works, from the same hand, which facility cannot seduce into carelessness, are No. 148, *Ancona, on the Adriatic*—No. 343, *Avignon on the Rhone*.

Hard by the egregious 'Bacchus and Ariadne' of Mr. Turner, hangs another mythological subject, treated in a far different manner, and, moreover, one of the best works of its artist—Mr. Etty. This is No. 30, *Mars, Venus, and Attendant dethroning her Mistress for the Bath*. It is true that his Goddess of Love and Beauty is always one and the same person,—possibly a transcript from the same model,—but he has never been more happy in his display of her unveiled charms; the lower limbs seem to us painted with an exquisite firmness and delicacy, recalling masters whom it is almost heresy to name in conjunction with any modern. The Goddess stands upright in the centre of the canvas, at once foiled and set off by the contrasted and gorgeous objects around her. To the left sleeps Mars on a leopard skin, which, sweeping over the side of the couch, makes a rich background for the delicate hues of her beauty. To the right stands a Negress, who would fain assist in the unbraiding of her profuse golden hair; the effect of whose dusky complexion is at once tempered and enhanced by the black velvet robe bordered with fur, which girds her from her naked waist downwards. Pieces of armour and richly-chased silver vases, contribute to make up this rich vision of soldierly strength subdued by luxurious enchantment; while a sea-green hem of cool water close to the picture's edge, gives a delicate freshness hardly attainable by other means. Another work in the same manner, but less attractive, is 27, *Bacchus and Ariadne*, a companion picture. In the middle room is a larger composition, by Mr. Etty (230), *The Foolish and the Wise Virgins*. His genius is more at home among the records of Paganism than those of Christianity—has a closer sympathy with the indolent ones shut out from the Bridegroom's revel, by their having yielded to sensual temptation, than with those brighter spirits—by Faith and Hope made eager, who kept their watch unbroken and their lamps ready trimmed for the bridal. Thus the lower part of the picture, which exhibits the foolish five surprised on the steps of the palace, is its better portion. Two are still overcome by slumber—two still on their knees, struggling by prayer and entreaty to move the pity of the happy band above, the central figure of which waves them thence, while the fifth breaks away from the scene of gladness, and with a gesture of despair tears from her brow the garland wreathed for it in vain. With all its meritorious and meretricious points—the latter outnumbering the former,—the picture is little better than a sketch, the reed pen being still obtrusively visible in the outlines of many of the figures.

It would be difficult, among artists who choose the same class of subject, to name two whose minds and manners are wider asunder than those of Mr. Etty and Mr. Howard—witness, as compared with the Mars and Venus of the former, the *Proserpina* (95) of the latter. This is a grand landscape, its composition faintly recalling one of Poussin's delicious works, and only requiring more air and a lighter hand upon the foliage to have been attractive, had it been unpeopled by the infernal Divinity, with his cloudy chariot, and the flower-gatherers of the rich vale of Enna: the actors, indeed, in this "gorgeous masque of pageantry and fear," though picturesquely arranged, and, taken separately, gracefully conceived, (we must in particular mention the group who crouch among the overflowing baskets in the foreground,) are, after their kind, far less perfect than is the representation of the scene animated by their presence.

As we are following Fancy rather than Order, we may at once pass from this feeble transcript of an imaginative scene to a forcible version of a real one;—we mean 441—*The Slave Trade*, by M. Biard. Few English painters would have chosen such a subject. Though we have our Newgate literature, we are still, happily, in Art, far from that state which, in the search after strong effects, permits the seeker to riot among all that is physically and morally monstrous, hideous, and distorted. We are, however, constrained

to add, that few English painters could have treated any subject with so much vigour. It is remarkable, indeed, how the worst moral features of the traffic in human blood have been combined and illustrated, so as to make up the tale. On the one hand, helpless animal suffering is displayed in the wretched groups driven to market, with little more intelligence in their misery than the flock of sheep driven to the shambles—half way, as it were, between the negro of the creek and the white man of the vessel,—the wretched and brutalized chief, feathered and tricked out in finery, bartering his war captives, or, perhaps, even his own kindred, for luxury and gold, the enjoyments and uses of which only touch his dull senses faintly,—the interpreter counting on his fingers the price of the drove,—the sportsman who has run it down,—the herdsman who has brought it up to the coast for shipment,—and lastly, on the other side, more ghastly still, the supercargo lying listlessly along, with the ledger, containing such a fearful record of human agony, at his side, and his white ministers binding and branding their prey, with a remorseless indifference as to the deep though ill-expressed feelings of manhood which tyranny and torture are crushing and searing out of their victims for ever. Such is the sentiment of the picture: expressed with a terrible power, thanks to the French artist's command over anatomical resource, and the different aspects of feature. No common strength of hand is, also, evidenced in it: the touch is decided,—the colouring, though sombre, less earthy than that of other works by French painters which have come to England. In the small octagon room, the same artist has another work (20), *Crossing the Line*, less repulsive in subject, but less meritorious as a work of art, though still conveying a fair idea of the rough and jovial Sea-Saturnal, so often described by travellers.

A natural eagerness for such contrast as the contemplation of pure and holy beauty brings with it, leads us from M. Biard's work to Mr. Eastlake's delightful picture (61), *The Salvation of the Aged Friar*, the spirit of which, thus beheld, steals into the mind like a hymn of thanksgiving after the riot of a demon's sabbath, or a gentle down-pouring of sunshine among the hills after the noisome darkness or the lurid glare of some subterranean torture-chamber. The artist exhibits to us one in whom age has but mellowed every benevolent sympathy, giving his gentle but hearty benediction to mothers and their little children. The women being those *contadine*, whose serene and ample beauty, aided so many of the old Italians to embody their ideas of sainted maternity in the Madonna, and with which few among the moderns are more thoroughly imbued than Mr. Eastlake. The children, by their innocent sweetness and gentle confidence, do their part in completing the placid harmony of the scene: one nestles in its mother's embrace (here, by the way, some incorrectness of drawing must not pass unnoticed), another, bolder, holds up in its little hand a rose to the kind old man, who has not studied the gorgeous breviary borne by his companion so engrossingly as to have forgotten the early thoughts and cares and shrinkings of infancy, most timid when it would most please. This picture is very sweetly painted; a simple artifice of colour, namely, the introduction of the scarlet drapery in the panier borne by the foremost woman, is very effective. Mr. Eastlake contributes only one other picture,—No. 228, *A Portrait of Miss Bury*,—a fair subject, fairly executed.

The idea, sanctioned by the pleasure with which Mr. Eastlake's picture is contemplated, that religious art is becoming increasingly an object of interest and patronage in England, gains strength, if we may draw conclusions from the attempts of some of our rising painters. Besides 484, *An Altar-Piece for St. George's Church, Leeds*, a grand scriptural composition, of much merit, and more aspiration, Mr. Cope has contributed two smaller works, on which we prefer to dwell—inasmuch as their scale brings them more within the reach of his hand, than the colossal gallery size, which cannot fail to test the boldness, as well as the correctness of the artist, both in design and in colour, to a degree which no modern study has prepared him to meet. These are what the Catholic Breviary might call an Act of Duty and an Act of Mercy: No. 198, in the figure of a young woman, supporting the trembling steps of Age, as he

mounts a staircase, illustrates Obedience: No. 204, in a companion group of a mother, children, and mendicants, displays the heart-expanding virtue of Almsgiving. The latter is our favourite. Stothard might have designed that delicate white-robed figure, with one babe in her arms, and another creeping close at her side, who advances softly to succour the indigent, with love and mercy on her brow. The old head behind her is beautiful in its contrast—more than beautiful, even pleasing; since the weight of years, of penury and sorrow, has not effaced a spirit of patient resignation. The child, also, cradled in the aged woman's withered arms, is no less happily designed. More than one technical defect might be charged upon this picture; but the feeling displayed in it must soften and elevate those who look on it; and inasmuch as such effect is wrought on the gazer, the artist's work is a good one, and his spirit worthy of all praise. The simple and holy affections are too rarely touched—how much more rarely expressed—by our painters!

In mentioning what is refined in subject and treatment, a picture by Mr. Mulready naturally occurs to us—No. 99, the interior of an artist's studio; where the young wife of the painter sits by his side, in tranquil converse, while laid apart from them, beneath the easel, is their infant hope, one day himself destined, as they fondly believe, to stand forth a genius. There is delicacy of treatment, as well as sentiment, in this small composition; but the tone of colour is strange. The whole flesh tints are of a cinnabar redness—such as could be only communicated to healthy complexions, by the intervention of a pane of scarlet glass between the sun and the subject. A like hallucination has possessed Mr. Mulready in the picture called by him *First Love*, a pleasant scene of rural courtship, but no less curiously exaggerated in its tones. No. 116, *Fair Time*, comes nearer to nature, and is a clever picture, in the Dutch manner; but, in spite of their mannerism, the two former works will, we think, be preferred.

Fair Time hangs above a smaller work of the domestic class, by one of the young artists, in whose pictures, notwithstanding some defects of drawing and colouring, there is always discernible feeling for nature—sometimes a touch of elegance: we mean Mr. J. C. Horsley. *The Contrast* (117) is but a church porch, into which the Second and the Seventh Age are entering. A little school girl is followed by a venerable man, whom she turns round for one instant to survey with gentle curiosity—the arch of the sacred building, by calling the thoughts away from earth, harmonizing these extremes of life, and reminding us how brief is the career just beginning, and just closing, when compared with the measureless past and future. Mr. Horsley's claim to elegance is vindicated by another picture—288, *Leaving the Ball*—a group issuing from a brilliantly-lighted mansion, at day-dawn. First, come the elders, eager to throw themselves back in the carriage, and sleep—the father drawing his cloak round him, and the young lady, who, having but her father for her cavalier, has tied her scarf over her head, regardless of the becoming;—behind them, a delicate vision of loveliness, who thinks that the ball has ended too soon, and whose cheeks show a consciousness that she is attended by one from whom she would fain accept a life's attendance, so engrossing, that she does not heed the perilous dews of day-dawn, but walks slowly, her beautiful ringlets uncovered, and her mantle left to fall as it pleases. Seen beyond her is the youth,

Who sinks his voice of harsher tone
To a soft whisper like her own,
And breathes into her virgin ear
Bright, dainty words, and flattering sighs,—
And aids their witchery with his eyes
Deep—humble—fixed on hers,—how shall she choose but hear?

He is, however, the worst drawn personage in the group—making good the truth so spitefully dwelt upon by all Benedicks, that nothing is so awkward as a man in love. But like 'The Contrast,' this picture, by its accessories, touches a wider range of sympathies than by the story of its mere principal figures, pleasing though that be. Behind the party are discovered early labourers and market-women, already astir from their beds, to take part in a business of life harder than love-making; while,

in the foreground, and within hearing of the jarring harp and untuned flageolet in the ball-room, crouches a houseless wanderer, more keenly sensitive to the biting morning air than those silken revellers. By these simple means, the conventional air which the work might otherwise have possessed is relieved; and the lesson of life, with its twofold meaning—its inextricable mingling of sigh and smile, grief and gladness—is illustrated without pedantry. As a painting, too, this is by much the best of Mr. Horsley's works.

We defer further notice of the pictures till next week; and, in the meantime, by way of relief, shall enter the

Sculpture Gallery.

The first feeling of the Frenchman or Bavarian, on entering the Sculpture Room of the British Academy, will be one of surprise at the sort of *den* (somewhat on the scale of a first-class coal-hole), in which it is the taste of Englishmen to *stow away*, rather than exhibit the products of the national genius. His impression on leaving it, if he happen to be cosmopolitan in his love of art, as all true lovers of art *are*, will be one of satisfaction at the very respectable state of the art, evidenced by the works which have just passed under review. The present Exhibition contains no one of those conspicuous performances which instantly detach themselves from the groups around, and gather the visitors into a single knot; and, indeed, of the *spiritual* and *ideal* of the art, there is an almost total absence, portraiture being the basis of more than three-fourths of all the works exhibited. While this fact, however, is evidence, not of the tendencies of British genius, but of the forms under which alone its patrons choose to encourage it, there is a general excellence displayed in all the technicals of art, and a general intelligence of its meanings and resources, betokening close study and careful training, and promising better things for the British school, as a school, than any occasional efforts of genius, however exalted. There is no doubt that, from any level, however low, and from beneath any weight of incumbrances, genius of the highest order will wing its way into the sunshine; and its casual and exceptional flights cannot, therefore, be accepted as evidence of the state of Art in the quarter from whence it sprang. The great point should be, to build up the broad foundations of a school to such a general level as lifts it clear of all practical impediments, and presents the base on which even Genius poises itself most advantageously for its highest and most sustained excursions. In this point of view, the year's Exhibition affords very favourable testimony to the progress of Sculpture, announcing an approach to that sound condition in which it will be sure to produce higher things, so soon as they whose appreciation (apart from the substantial rewards it includes,) is the element on which genius lives, shall have their taste educated and refined up to the point at which it demands them.

In the list of exhibitors, the most conspicuous absence is that of the Professor himself.—the long-familiar name being represented in this Exhibition only, but very ably, by his son. It has been rumoured, that Sir Richard Westmacott is about to resign his chair at the Academy; and, in his intention to abandon his office of teaching by precept, he may probably hold himself released from the duty of teaching by examples. Sir Francis Chantrey, however, is here, with two full-length statues and five busts, all in marble, and all portraits; the two former represent the late *William Roscoe*, of Liverpool (1071), and the painter *Northcote* (1074)—both, and the last especially, to be excelled in their class only by himself amongst English artists, but both of which, nevertheless, he has excelled. The likeness of Northcote, both physical and characteristic, is, however, admirable. Of the busts, precedence must be given to that of *The Queen* (1070), because of her sex and rank, rather than because of its superiority: it is still, however, a very beautiful work—finely embodying Her Majesty's youthful simplicity of appearance, and distinguished by that consummate manipulation for which this artist's most finished productions are supreme; the character of the subject, however, did not allow of bold and vigorous handling. As belonging to his finer works may be mentioned a bust of *Sir Charles Clarke*, the physician (1199), and to his *finest*, the marble bust of *Sir Thomas Munro* (1190), which served as the model for the colossal eque-

trian statue gone to Madras. Next after Chantrey, the name of Baily presents itself—an artist who is at once an honour and a reproach to the English school of sculpture. It is too often the fate of genius to toil on, with the bitter sense of unappreciated power, for want of the lucky accident which leads the critic's lamp or the patron's carriage to its door. Such, however, has not been the case with Baily. The lamp and the carriage have both, and long since, been there; and it has been his singular fortune to escape obscurity, by the strong light of the one, and yet to miss the substantial rewards which generally follow in the train of the other. Informed with more of the poetry of his art than any sculptor since Flaxman,—filled with the ideal forms of Greek beauty, and gifted with the taste and fancy requisite for their application to the illustration of our own mythology and literature—long since elected an Academician by the suffrages of his professional brethren, and voted into a place amongst the first by the unanimous voice of the *dilettanti* public, it is not creditable to the patrons of English Art, that he has, in a degree far beyond that of men of greatly inferior talent and reputation, been denied those opportunities which are a very important supplement to the fame of an artist with a family. Under more auspicious circumstances, and with more appropriate encouragement, this sculptor could not have failed greatly to illustrate a school which the name of Flaxman alone suffices to place at the head of modern schools. But it is a necessary consequence of the very general indifference to the spiritualities of native art in this department, that a genius equal to the embodiment of abstract beauty, is driven for bread into the beaten path of portraiture, and appears in this Exhibition, not as an illustrator of Milton or Shakespeare or Plato, but as one of the hundred "transmitters of a face," foolish or otherwise, as the case may happen to be. Luckily, however, he has here a very noble subject, and has produced a very noble work—one of the finest in the Exhibition—in a marble statue (1104), intended to be erected as part of a monument in the church at Petworth, to the memory of the late *Earl of Egremont*—one of the few generous and judicious patrons of English sculpture. Of this artist's two busts, the best is that of *Sir Richard Bourke*, the late Governor of New South Wales (1193); but the fact is, that, excepting to those whose vanity or affections it flatters, a bust is the least interesting of all the forms of high art; and, besides that Mr. Baily has on this ground very dangerous competitors, (one of whom in particular we have yet to mention) we grieve to know how much, in the case of such an artist as himself, we are losing, for the sake of these unmeaning productions. The subject of busts must not, however, be dismissed, without a tribute to Mr. W. Behnes, who, in most of the qualities of which this class admits—in perfect resemblance, freedom of treatment, and careful execution—has gradually arrived at an excellence second only to that of Chantrey. Mr. Behnes has five marble busts in the present Exhibition—all good; but No. 1173, described as the bust of *A Lady*, is excellent; and two others, a bust of *W. Hobson, Esq.* (1187), and another (1178) of the venerable *Thomas Clarkson*—the latter executed in pursuance of the vote by which the Common Council of the city of London did honour to itself on the 29th of November, 1838,—is equal to anything which has proceeded from the chisel of Mr. Behnes, and to anything, in its class, which the present Exhibition contains. The bust of Clarkson is, at once, an admirable work of art, and a valuable one, far beyond the range of family, or even of national, sympathies. Mr. Westmacott, too, who inherits much of his father's talent, and has hitherto proved it in some very beautiful subjects embodying the ideal of his art, has been driven by the trade-wind of patronage, which has set in one direction, into the same course; and appears in the present Exhibition (with one exception, which is portraiture likewise) as a bust-maker alone. With much grace of conception and smoothness of finish, Mr. Westmacott has not yet acquired that vigour of thought and firmness of handling, which years and longer practice, with his talents and opportunities, will no doubt confer. By the side of such busts as those of Chantrey, and Baily, and Behnes, he would probably have had unfavourable comparisons to undergo, had he been

dealing with similar subjects. He seems, however, to have fallen into a line of practice (his busts being all those of women or children) in which his sense of the beautiful and delicacy of touch have very appropriate exercise. His subjects are treated with much grace and tenderness; and as an example, with which we are most pleased, we will mention his marble bust of *Viscount Farnborough* (1182). A Posthumous bust in marble, of the *Eldest Son of General and Lady Charlotte Bacon* (1180), does credit to the artist, Mr. C. Moore; and, with a passing word of encouragement to Mr. A. Hone, one of the children of the well-known antiquarian writer, who has two works in this Exhibition, which give promise of better, we must take leave of the bust department;—concluding the subject of portraiture altogether, by calling attention to (1100) a very fine statue in marble, by Mr. S. Joseph, of the late *Mr. Wilberforce*, about to be erected in Westminster Abbey, and the only defect of which is, perhaps, that of not entirely suggesting those feelings of repose which, under all but very peculiar circumstances, consort best with monumental sculpture.

Among subjects of a less personal and more poetical kind, the eye of the visitor will be at once attracted by a conspicuous statue in marble of *A Wounded Amazon* (1105), the work of Mr. Gibson, the Academician. Excepting in the accoutrements and colossal proportions, the figure seems scarcely expressive enough of the moral qualities assigned by poetic fiction to her race,—neither does the face, engaged in the examination of a cut on the thigh, exhibit either the sentiment of pain or the stern resolve by which it is repressed. The features are too passionless for the occasion; but the marble is a very fine one—beautifully wrought. The same artist exhibits *A Basso-Relievo, in Plaster, representing Jocasta expressing the ire of her Sons, Eteocles and Polyneices* (1084), in which the outlines altogether, and the expressive attitude of the mother, are not unworthy of ancient art. A *Statue of a Girl going to bathe* (1076), by P. MacDowell, deserves especial notice. It is a very beautiful figure, in the Greek manner, and not unworthy of the school from which it is borrowed. We trust it may find a purchaser—that the artist may be encouraged in the path of poetical sculpture. Another work of considerable merit is entitled by its author, Mr. S. Nixon, *Winter* (1072)—and is a marble statue, one of a series executing, by order of the Goldsmiths' Company, for the staircase of their Hall. The treatment has novelty, amongst its other merits,—the subject being ingeniously suggested by a bluff and sturdy boy, standing vigorously up against the storm, which wraps a warm but loose garment closely round his limbs, and blows it up about his uncovered head, where the tossed hair helps further to tell the story of the tempest. No. 1091, a marble statue of *A Greek Boxer waiting his Turn*, by F. Gott, deserves notice,—as do *A Design for an Altar-Piece* (1081), by E. G. Papworth, which illustrates a text from Ezekiel, by an allegory, representing the powers of good and evil contending for a human soul,—and 1099, a group, by F. H. Foley, composed of *Ino and the Infant Bacchus*. Mr. Lough has a figure of a *Roman Fruit Girl* (1096), to which we turned with an expectation that was disappointed. With a mention of Mr. W. C. Marshall's name, as exhibiting some works of merit, we must bring to a close a notice which we have made thus long, because we are desirous of doing what in us lies to give scope and development to a branch of native art which, save in the hands of a few of its most eminent professors, has long lain under an unmerited neglect—a neglect whose inevitable reaction must be the deterioration of the art itself. Many circumstances seem just now combining to give a new impulse and extended field to the arts;—we are desirous that they should all share in the forward movement, and partake at once of its moral influences and substantive rewards. On the continent, and more especially in France, Sculpture and Architecture are making rapid progress under the high patronage and public attention which are abundantly directed towards them; and, whatever may be said of the latter, England has a school of the former, if she will give it fair play, which need fear no competition with any continental one in the present generation.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

QUARTETT CONCERTS.—HANOVER-SQUARE ROOMS. Messrs. BLAGROVE, GATTIE, DANDO, and LUCAS, beg to inform the PUBLIC that the LAST QUARTETT CONCERT of the present season will take place on MONDAY EVENING NEXT, May 15, to commence at half-past eight o'clock. The Programme will include a Trio (Soprano, Violoncello, and Piano) by W. S. Beucler (first time of performance), and Mendelssohn's Octet. Vocal Performers: Madame Stockhausen and Miss Bildstein.—Tickets, 7s. each, or 15s. each admitting three persons, may be obtained of the Conductors, of Messrs. Collards, Chespie; Chappell & Co., Bond-street; and Cramer & Co., Regent-street.

Messdames Grisi, Persiani, Dorus Gras (her first appearance), Caradori Allan, Stockhausen, Mdlle. Bildstein, Miss M. B. Hawes, Signori Robini, Tamburini, Lablache, &c., and all the available talent in town, including the celebrated Pianistes, Liszt and Duelli; Molique and Ole Bull on the Violin; Batta, Violoncello; Puzzi, French Horn, will perform at M. BENEDICT'S ANNUAL GRAND MORNING CONCERT, in the Concert Room of Her Majesty's Theatre, on FRIDAY, May 29. Tickets, Stalls, and Boxes to be had of all the principal Music-sellers; and of M. Benedict, 8, Bruton-street.

Mr. Liszt will perform Beethoven's Grand Sonata for Piano-forte and Violin, dedicated to Kreutzer, with Mr. Eliason; also a Grand Fantasia of his own composition, at MR. ELIASON'S ANNUAL GRAND CONCERT, on MONDAY EVENING, June 1, at the Hanover-square Rooms. The Mesdames Grisi and Stockhausen, Miss Birch, Mdlle. Bildstein, and Miss M. B. Hawes, Signor Tamburini, Herr Schmetzer, Messrs. John Parry and Phillips. The German Chorus will sing some favourite selections from German Operas. The Orchestra will be on the usual grand scale: Leader, Mr. F. Cramer; Conductor, Sir George Smart.—Tickets and Stalls may be had at Cramer & Co.'s, 30, Regent-street; Charles Olliver's, 40, New Bond-street; and all the principal Music-sellers; and of Mr. Eliason, 30, Maddox-street.

PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.—Fifth Concert.—This was led by Mr. Loder and conducted by Mr. Bishop: the execution of the music, owing such few good points as marked it far more to the leader than to the conductor of the evening. Mr. Bishop, indeed, set many of the movements going in times which their composers did not intend. The whole Jupiter symphony was played too fast, except the minuet, which was taken too slow: so also the rivulet movement, in Beethoven's *pastorale*, was made to flow more rapidly than the master designed; while portions of Mendelssohn's overture to the 'Midsummer Night's Dream,' especially the long chords for the wind instruments at its commencement and close, were entirely destroyed, for want of that firmness with which a conductor should control his orchestra. Strong nationality makes our ears tingle and our cheeks burn, whenever foreigners, armed with musical science to their fingers' ends, like M. Liszt and Herr Molique, should witness such incompetence,—the shame of which must be divided equally among the directing committee, the conductor of the night, and the orchestra, vaunting itself to be one of the finest in Europe! A like wish that English artists would really take the place they might if judiciously combined,—makes us listen with avidity to rumours of a concert to replace those of the Philharmonic Society, the fulfilment of which is rendered necessary to our credit by the abuses and negligences of management in that old chartered establishment. Besides M. Liszt's magnificent performance, Herr Molique played a fantasia on themes from 'Norma.' The singers were Mdlle. Nau and Miss M. B. Hawes. The former lady, well known to the frequenters of the *Académie Royale* at Paris, as the only person to be depended upon in the absence of Mad. Dorus-Gras—has a clear, high, French *soprano* voice, in excellent tone and order: capable of executing with a conscientious neatness, ornaments which are brilliant and consistent with the character of the songs she chooses. These, on Monday, were Elvira's *scena* from 'La Muette,' and De Beriot's (Malibran's) 'Prendi per me,' which latter lost by the transposition of the lower notes, necessary to the effect of the composition. Miss Hawes sang Mozart's 'Addio' with great firmness and expression. Her shake is remarkably perfect, and not employed in the old hackneyed times and places. We object, however, on principle to scored songs, which have been written merely for a pianoforte accompaniment.

CONCERTS OF THE WEEK.—M. Liszt.—The musical event of the week—of the year—has been the return of this artist to London. Fifteen seasons ago, he left behind him the reputation belonging to a prodigy of early genius,—of all others the most unsatisfactory, because the one least likely to be confirmed by Time and Manhood. In the interim, pianists of all classes and colours—the classical, the brilliant, the eccentric—have risen up, flourished, and passed away. But the fame of M. Liszt, so far from having waned, has progressively increased and consolidated. The English have heard of him, first in Paris, as chief of the romantic school among the instrumentalists; as fore-

most of those musical worshippers of Shakspeare and Goethe, and Byron and Hoffmann, whose literary utterance has been made through the mouths of a Victor Hugo and a George Sand. Subsequently came tidings from Italy, how he had been able to win for the music of Thought and Philosophy and Fantasy, sympathy from a public, to stir whose sensual lethargy in taste, an energy was demanded little short of the galvanizer's power. More recently still, we heard of him in Austria, followed by crowds of a far higher order in musical experience—as the inspired and original interpreter of those master-works, which every street-minstrel and every school-boy not only loves reverentially for their own intrinsic beauty, but has been enabled to associate with the versions of conscientious and highly-gifted executive artists. The man, too, was known to us by report, and on the testimony of his own pen, as little less various in his endowments than the musician: so that intelligent impatience to witness some signal and original manifestation of artistic power—yet more than vulgar appetite for the marvellous and renowned, fed by hearsay, was engaged to a degree almost beyond precedent, by the announcement of the re-appearance of the Poet of the Piano-forte.

There are times when the critic who measures his words, impugns his own head, heart, and hands: yet, again, there are no commonplaces so repulsive as the commonplaces of enthusiasm venting itself in florid language. Thus, in attempting to express how all anticipations of M. Liszt have been exceeded by the reality, those who would neither fall short of, nor degrade, by tawdry and indiscriminate praise, their subject, labour under no common difficulty, and have to bespeak no common measure of indulgence, both from the artist and from the public. To the point, however: the performances by which M. Liszt is as yet known to our concert audiences, have been a grand fantasia on Rubini's *cavatina* and Grisi's *polacca* in 'I Puritani,'—another, on themes from Donizetti's 'Lucia,'—a 'Marche Hongroise,' a Valse, and a 'Galop Chromatique,' all of his own composition, unaccompanied by orchestra;—and Weber's 'Concert Stück,' performed by him at the Philharmonic Concert on Monday evening. In the mere chapter of difficulty vanquished, language breaks down. All former most elaborate combinations of melody with accompaniment—all manifestations of independence, not merely of the two hands, but of the separate fingers—all difficulties of execution, whether as accomplishing the grasp of wide intervals, or the close, dazzling and delicate texture of semitonic sequences, principal or accidental, in single notes or triple chords—all former displays of rapidity,—the lightning velocity in his case never distinct from expression,—have been already surpassed by him, and yet not exhausted, since a treasury of countless new effects must be at the disposal of one so prodigiously gifted. Every variety of tone, too, of which his instrument is capable, the level diapason of the piano, the faintest whisper among its highest notes—and the deep bass sound of its lowest strings, 'is ruled as by a wizard.' Here and there, too, as in the 'Marche Hongroise,' he draws out a sound, rich, keen, and speaking, as distinct from its usual voice as the oboe is from the other wind-tones in the orchestra. By the structure of the Fantasie, the Marche, and the Galoppe, too, contrast was allowed its fullest play: passages of melody were set off by sudden and harsh dissonances, on the principle which made the beauties of old time love to keep near them dwarfs and hideous persons—movements of serene and steady rhythm, exchanged for flights so starry, and freaks so whimsical as apparently to preclude the possibility of any return to the sober restraints of measure—yet with such constant use of tempo rubato as the fantastic style demands, we have never heard any one, more instinct with the feeling of time,—that certain evidence that enthusiasm has been mastered, not yielded to,—than M. Liszt. His whole performance meanwhile is animated by a spirit so bright, so all pervading, as to be no less incommunicable in words than it is irresistible. On a first acquaintance with these wonders, we had some misgivings whether the grandeur and repose of style, demanded by the great works of stricter musicians, could be expected from one so full of imagination and vivacity,—misgivings put to rest for ever, by the execution of Weber's concerto on Monday evening.

Here nothing could be nobler, more expressive, more free from caricature than the opening of the *adagio*: in the *allegro*, M. Liszt's omnipotence over the instrument was more clearly displayed, though in the passage calling for delicacy and self-restraint (we mean the delicious and airy second *solo* in a flat) nothing could be purer or more calm than his delivery—the same may be said of all the more subdued passages of *remplissage*, in the last movement;—which, be it remembered, alternate with outbreaks of sweeping execution, the latter given by him with a volcanic force and celerity so violent in its excitement as utterly to have discomposed nerves under less consummate mastery. In the march, he played with the full orchestra, leading with a colossal triumph and power of tone which at once excited all the band to its utmost spirit, and predominated over them. The above, however, are mere technical notes upon performances, of which, after all, the peerless feature is, the bright, eager, elevated poetical genius to be heard in every tone and touch—the utterance of a high-soured enthusiasm, if at times near to, never wholly coincident with extravagance.

BENEFIT CONCERTS.—These must be dismissed in a few lines: their main attraction having already been disposed of. Mrs. A. Toulmin and Mr. J. Parry's was given yesterday week, and was made up principally of native talent. Both the lady and the gentleman sang particularly well. Mr. Jarrett's beautiful horn-playing, and Mr. Richardson's flute performance (little as we like the latter instrument) were both of them more welcome than the long waste of the violoncello, made by Mr. Lindley over Mr. Horncastle's gentle airs, and received with thunders of traditional applause, which, we hope, never will be bestowed on any artist again so flagrantly deficient in good taste. M. Lidel's *Soirée* took place on Thursday evening. Besides Liszt's pianoforte playing, we had the violoncello performance of the *beneficiaire*, which is in the broad sound style of the classical musician, and wants but a little more certainty and finish to rank very high,—we had a fantasia on a Swiss air, by Molique, and some very agreeable singing, amongst which must be expressly specified that by Herr Eicke, of the German Opera, who possesses not merely a baritone voice smoother and more agreeable in tone than most German organs, but also an unaffected manly style, which cannot fail to make its way with the public.

ITALIAN AND GERMAN OPERA.—An *erratum* in our report on last week's Italian Opera may be here corrected: for Madame Bellini, in the part of *Pippa*, read Madame Castelli! The former lady was announced in the play-bills as having a part in 'La Gazza Ladra,' and it never occurred to us as possible, that the latter could be promoted to the part which Vestris and Brambilla have filled. Hence our mistake, arising from ignorance of the amount of effrontery which may be shown in imposing upon the public artists disgracefully incompetent. Every day brings us fresh details, justifying our view of the Opera case, and our hope that the subscribers will bestir themselves to place matters on a better footing in future. The decease of Mde. Grisi's sister having caused the absence of the former from the stage on Thursday, the performance of 'Don Giovanni,' announced with the new ballet for that evening, was postponed. 'Inez de Castro' is to be the next novelty—of both next week. A new German opera—the 'Nachtlager zu Grenada' of Conradin Kreutzer—was produced at the Prince's Theatre on Wednesday, with good success.

MISCELLANEA

Gleanings from the Note-Book of a Northern Traveller.—When one of Alexander's visits to Warsaw was announced, there was not time to clear the streets of a quantity of mud which had been scraped in heaps. The police (Russians) ordered the windows on the ground floor of the houses in these streets to be opened, and threw the mud into the rooms!—One of the bells of Moscow was professedly banished to the borders of the icy ocean in Siberia, three or four hundred years ago, for having tolled the accession of some pretender to the throne. This man passed himself off as an emperor who was reported to have been strangled; but the deceit was discovered, and his accomplice, the bell, punished by the knout, as

it was found impossible to send it to Siberia, according to the sentence. On his accession the present emperor published an ukase, allowing the bell to return to Moscow, but not to sound; on the birth of a son some time after, Nicholas, in a second ukase, granted it a full pardon, and it is now allowed to sound.—Prince Roman Sangusko was banished to Siberia after the revolution. His father had never given him an establishment, but the Russian government obliges him to pay to them, annually, the income his son ought to have received. A Jew, whom he (the father) had formerly been instrumental in bringing to justice, had returned from banishment, and incurred the same punishment a second time; to aggravate Prince Roman's punishment, this man was chosen as his companion on the journey, and chained with him to the same iron bar. From forty to sixty are coupled in this manner, and then strung together on the same chain. When they halt for the night they are not unchained, but are crowded into a small space enclosed by high stakes, pointed at the top, without any roof, and so small that there is not always space to lie side by side.—A gentleman from Cracow, being at Warsaw, was imprisoned because he wore a ring engraved with the letters N. P., which, it was insisted, must mean, "Nouvelle Pologne." He was obliged to send to Cracow to obtain certificates that these letters were the initials of his mother, and that she had given him the ring.

The Pulse.—At a late meeting of the Royal Academy of Sciences and Belles Lettres in Brussels, M. Rameaux laid before the Academy the results of his inquiries as to the mean number of pulsations in man. These, it is said, establish so positive a relation between the number of pulsations and the stature of the individual, that, by using the tables of growth which M. Quetelet has given in his *Physique Sociale*, for the two sexes, the corresponding number of pulsations for each age may be deduced; and the numbers so calculated agree in the most satisfactory manner with the numbers obtained by observation.

The Ancient Casarea.—The following extract of a letter, written from Algiers, by M. Azema de Montgravier, Captain of Artillery, to M. Hase, a Member of the Institute, has been by him communicated to the Academy of Inscriptions and Belles-Lettres:—"I have just passed a few days amid the ruins of *Julia Casarea*. I have some right to call the modern Cherchell, since I have been the first to collect four inscriptions bearing the name of that ancient city. I have, besides, found many others, less important; and having, first, placed the whole under the protection of our guns, I hasten to send you copies of the two principal ones—which are also those in the highest preservation. * * * Why can I not lay before your eyes the admirable Corinthian capitals, the granite columns and antique tombs—brothers to that of *Kébor Roumie*, and, like it, doubtless of Numidian origin! The English traveller, Shaw, speaks of that gigantic wall, of three leagues in circumference, which formed the ancient boundary of Casarea;—but says nothing as to the period of its construction. That construction must, I think, be referred to the second Roman occupation of Africa,—when ancient civilization flung its latest rays along this strand. We Frenchmen are taking up the work where Theodosius and Belisarius left it. Like them, we have the *Maurusii* to repel,—who, under the names of the Kabyle Tribes, and those of Beni-Menasser, wage implacable war against our banner, planted on the very walls where the *Labarus* was unfurled, of old. Many who are indifferent to the teachings of history, begin to appreciate the ancients, when they see that our modern engineers can do no better than entrench themselves behind walls built by engineers who lived fourteen centuries ago. The ancient port of this town is another evidence of the power of the Romans; and here I must take occasion to reproach the English traveller with want of clearness in his long dissertation on the *Kathum*. Why not say at once that he saw a basin of a square form, situate on the west, in the false road? Vitruvius informs us that there was no good port among the ancients without a strand on which the galleys could be drawn up and left dry for repair. Now, in this condition of such a port, Casarea was essentially deficient, until the sands had filled up the space between the small island and the main land. My opinion is, that the ancients

had remedied this deficiency by lofty dykes, which won from the sea, on the western side, a very large space, in which they laid their galleys dry. Now that the dykes are broken down, the sea, in calm weather, leaves this basin still visible; and exposes a line of columns, which, no doubt, supported the roofs of the slips and workshops,—lying at almost equal distances from one another, as if thrown down by some sudden convulsion." The following are the two inscriptions, as read by M. Hase to the Academy:—
L. Licinio L. Fil. Quir. Secundino, Decurioni Cesarisiano, Equo Publico Exornato,
Sacrisque Lupercalibus Functo.

[To Lucius Licinius Secundinus, Son of Lucius, of the Quirina tribe, Decurion of the citizens of Casarea, Honoured by the Gift, at the Public Cost, of a Horse, and charged with the celebration of the Lupercalia.]

...Enio C. F. Fatall, Decurioni Splenditissime Colonie Cesarisiane, Religiosi Antistiti Sanctissimi Numinis Matris Jovis, Dendrophori Dignissimo.

[To — Enius Fatall, the son of Caius, Decurion of the most illustrious Colony of Casarea, high priest of the most sacred divinity, the Mother of the Gods,—having filled with dignity the office of Dendrophorus.]

Thames Water.—In the Report of the Directors of the West Middlesex Waterworks read last week at the general meeting, it was stated that the Committee of the House of Lords, appointed in February last, had caused an analysis to be made, by Mr. Phillips, of the Woods and Forests, of the different waters in and near London, which had established the fact, that Thames water, taken from a proper source, contains less of objectionable matter than the water proposed to be substituted for it, as appeared from a table of Mr. Phillips's Analysis, extracted from the minutes of evidence recently laid before the House of Lords, by the Committee; viz:—

Measure and Weight of Sample.	Quantity, 1 Imperial gallon.	If right, 10 lb. avoirdupois, = 70,000 grains.	Solid Contents of each Gallon.		Total of Saline Matters in each gallon of 70,000 grs.	
			Carb. of Lime.	Sulph. of Lime and salt.	19½ grains.	19½ grains.
Place where Sample taken.						
Thames.						
At Kew.	{ Source of the Grand Junction Water Works Company	16 grains.	2½ grains.	2½ grains.	19½ grains.	19½ grains.
Barnes.	{ Sources of the West Middlesex Water Works Company	16½ grains.	1½ grains.	1½ grains.	18½ grains.	19½ grains.
Chelsea.	{ Source of the Chelsea Water Works Company	16½ grains.	2½ grains.	2½ grains.	21½ grains.	21½ grains.
Source of the Projected Company.						
Otter's Pool—Spring near Bushey		18½ grains.	2½ grains.	2½ grains.	21½ grains.	21½ grains.
Main Stream of Valley that Supplies the Culm.		19½ grains.	2½ grains.	2½ grains.	21½ grains.	21½ grains.
Culm—near Bushey Mill		18½ grains.	2½ grains.	2½ grains.	21½ grains.	21½ grains.

New Copying Machine.—Mr. Plowman, of Oxford, has brought forward a portable copying machine, which appears to us—who, however, have but little experience in such matters—worthy the examination of merchants and others, especially travellers, who are under the necessity of preserving copies of their letters. It is moderate in price, simple in operation, and portable as a portfolio, which indeed it exactly resembles.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—S. R.—G. A.—A Lover of Literature.—A. H. Z.—S. H. received. We cannot comply with the request of C. A.

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